

# IIFT GK Addendum - 2015

Dear Future Business Leaders,

We are delighted to present to you this Addendum for IIFT 2015 examination. You are already provided with the IIFT GK Compendium-2015. The purpose of this Addendum is to provide additional knowledge which is very much relevant for your forthcoming IIFT examination-2015.

This Addendum covers the following IMPORTANT areas.

1. News Points from April 1, 2015 to October 15, 2015 under different heads, viz. National International, Contemporary Economic Developments, Newsmakers, Awards, Sports Miscellaneous.
2. International and National Organizations their heads and headquarters.
3. Countries, their capitals and currencies.
4. Countries and their heads of Governments.
5. Banks their heads, headquarters and punch lines.
6. Private Indian Banks and Their Heads
7. Foreign Banks and their countries of origin
8. Government schemes
9. Economic data
10. Census-2011 data
11. International and National awards and their latest winners.
12. Latest Books and Authors
13. International and National days
14. Sports data.

We sincerely hope and believe that this Addendum will add value to the existing compendium and will serve its intended purpose.

All the best!!

**TEAM CL**

## 1. News Points from April 1, 2015 to October 15, 2015

### April

#### **National**

- The Union Cabinet decided to recommend re-promulgation of the land acquisition ordinance incorporating nine amendments that were part of the Bill that was passed in Lok Sabha in the month of March 2015.
- Revisiting the disputed anti-terror legislation brought in by former Chief Minister Narendra Modi, the Gujarat Assembly passed the landmark Gujarat Control of Terrorism and Organised Crime Bill 2015 in April 2015.
- The Andhra Pradesh government approved the first phase of the master plan of the new capital and decided to name it Amaravati, to complete the initial phase of capital construction within four years. Singapore government had presented the master plan details of the first phase of capital construction in April 2015.
- In April 2015, the Bibek Debroy panel set up to suggest ways to restructure the railways has suggested merger of railway budget with the general budget while arguing that any increase in passenger fares must be accompanied by better services and amenities. It has also argued that the state governments must share the financial burden with the railways for suburban passenger services and uneconomic routes.
- The cash-strapped railways will end up saving Rs. 10,000 crore annually if the railway board stops all centralized procurement, says a report by 'Metro man' E Sreedharan in April 2015.
- In April 2015, government has taken the first real step in giving India's capital city, Delhi, a security cover that cities such as Beijing and Washington already have a nuclear missile shield. Two long-range missile-tracking radars have been placed in the national capital region.
- Maharashtra generates over 26,820 tonne solid waste per day, more than any other state in the country, a recent Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report has said in April 2015.
- Gujarat stands top the list of States in the implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission, while Odisha has excelled in the construction of community toilets, according to an assessment by the Union Urban Development Ministry for 2014-15.
- The Centre has given six months' more time to the states for rolling out the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Only 11 states and Union Territories have so far implemented the National Food Security Act which was passed by Parliament in September 2013. The rest 25 states/UTs have not implemented it yet by April 2015.
- Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has launched an anti-graft helpline to make the Capital among the five least-corrupt cities in the world over the next five year in April 2015. The helpline number is 1031.
- In April 2015, Kalvari, the first of the Indian Navy's six Scorpene class stealth submarines, was "undocked" in Delhi, paving the way for sea trials and its eventual commissioning in September 2016.
- The Government has extended the controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) to almost the entire state of Arunachal Pradesh, citing a serious law and order situation in all districts of the state which border Assam in April 2015.
- An 11-member international jury has declared Thane the National Earth Hour Capital with the city emerging the winner from India in the Earth Hour City Challenge this year. The city represented India in the Global Earth Hour Capital Competition of 16 countries in Seoul in April 2015.
- India successfully test-fired the nuclear-weapons capable Dhanush missile for its full range of 350 km off the Odisha coast in April 2015.
- Inland waterways would be developed through five rivers in Goa. Govt has decided to develop 101 rivers for inland waterways, of which five are in Goa. In the first phase, two rivers -- Mandovi and Zuari -- will be taken up for development. Chapora, Mapusa and Sal rivers would be taken up later in April 2015.
- The upcoming Badarpur-Faridabad corridor of Delhi Metro would be powered by a Green Sub-station as the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has constructed a host of eco-friendly features at Faridabad including its first ever green electrical Receiving Sub Station (RSS) in April 2015.
- A Panchayat Union Middle School at Keechankuppam village in Nagapattinam district, which was ravaged by the tsunami on December 26, 2004, has become Tamil Nadu's first government school to get a 'smart class' with internet facility in April 2015.

- With a view to promote Hindi as a world language, plans are underway to establish a 'Hindi Centre' near New York that will serve as an academic and cultural hub and facilitate exchange programmes between Indian and American universities in April 2015.
- In April 2015, India's push to accommodate a booming urban population and attract investment rests in large part with dozens of "smart" cities like the one being built on the dusty banks of the Sabarmati river.
- In April 2015, Dharamsala is to become the first Assembly Constituency in the country to be brought under 24/7 CCTV camera surveillance.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and three persons of Indian origin figure in Time magazine's list of 100 most influential people of the world released in April 2015 . Besides Modi, others are Microsoft CEO Satya Nadela, ICICI CEO Chanda Kochar and India's foremost mental health expert Professor Vikram Patel .
- In April 2015, All-weather port Haldia in West Bengal is set to become the country's first green port. Railway engines, trucks and other vehicles there are being run on bio-diesel made at the port.
- The University of Hyderabad has finally woken up to the issue and said it will develop 250 acres of land on its campus into a bio-reserve and wildlife corridor, a first such move in the country in April 2015 .
- Uttarakhand, the State with the second highest tiger population after Karnataka, now has a second tiger reserve, besides the Corbett Tiger Reserve. The Rajaji National Park has now been notified as the Rajaji Tiger Reserve by the Centre in April 2015.
- In April 2015, India is the fifth biggest producer of e-waste in the world, discarding 1.7 million tonnes (Mt) of electronic and electrical equipment in 2014, a UN report has warned that the volume of global e-waste is likely to rise by 21 per cent in next three years. India is behind the U.S., China, Japan and Germany.
- The Central Government is set to form three new tiger reserves in Ratapani in Madhya Pradesh, Sunabeda in Odisha and Guru Ghasidas in Chhattisgarh.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has permitted the States to use incinerator technology for producing Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF), commonly known as waste-to-energy in April 2015.
- The Union Cabinet cleared amendments to the Juvenile Justice Act that would allow juveniles aged between 16 and 18 to be tried as adults for heinous crimes such as murder and rape in April 2015.
- For the first time in 45 years a private member's Bill protecting and providing rights for transgenders was passed by the Rajya Sabha in April 2015 .
- The Union Cabinet approved Land Boundary Agreement with Bangladesh and, in a major departure, it has de-linked Assam from the agreement for now in April 2015.
- In April 2015, the Union Government decided to continue its Rs.1,000 minimum monthly pension scheme in perpetuity.

## International

- India gave nod to set up the country's own thermo-nuclear fusion reactor in April 2015. India is presently one of the seven partner countries in world's biggest energy research project the ITER that is coming up in Cadarache, France.
- Palestine formally joined the International Criminal Court (ICC), exactly 90 days after Palestine joined the court's founding Rome Statute in April 2015.
- In April 2015, President-elect Muhammadu Buhari had his historic election victory marking the first democratic transfer of power in Africa's most populous nation.
- Iran will appoint its first woman ambassador abroad since the Islamic Revolution in 1979. The post would go to foreign ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham, one of Iran's most high-profile female public figures in April 2015.
- A 900-year-old piece of sculpture from Khajuraho temple, which had somehow reached Canada, was returned by Prime Minister Stephen Harper when his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi. The sculpture, known as 'Parrot Lady', was handed over by Harper to Modi in accordance with 1970 UNESCO Convention in April 2015.
- In April 2015, Pakistan and Russia have agreed to hold first-ever joint military exercises as part of their enhanced defence cooperation, in a sign of increasing bonhomie between the Cold War-era adversaries.
- Chennai born Raja Rajeswari, who came to America when she was 16, has become the first person of Indian descent to be named as a criminal court judge in New York City in April 2015.
- India's Mausam and Spice Route projects with its Maritime Silk Road (MSR) initiative, China is making headway in integrating a Mongolian and a Russian initiative to develop another spur of its ambitious Silk Road land corridor in April 2015.

## Contemporary Economic Development

- Starting April 1, 2015 the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) of the Labour and Employment Ministry will now be implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The RSBY, the health insurance scheme for BPL (below poverty line) families provides for IT-enabled and smart-card-based cashless health insurance, including maternity benefit cover up to Rs. 30,000 per annum on a family floater basis.
- The merger deal between Kotak Mahindra Bank and ING Vysya Bank received the Reserve Bank's approval, which would create the country's fourth largest private sector lender in April 2015.
- In April 2015, Smart City project is in advanced stage and will be implemented on public-private partnership (PPP) mode after cabinet approval. The Urban development Ministry is undertaking three important projects at the moment. "One is Smart City Project, second is rejuvenation of 500 cities with more than 1 lakh population and the third is developing heritage cities,".
- Diageo, the world largest spirits maker, took full control of South African beer maker United National Breweries by acquiring the additional 50 per cent stake in the company from Vijay Mallya-controlled Pestello Investments for an initial payment of \$22 million in April 2015.
- PepsiCo will make Andhra Pradesh its national sourcing hub for fruit pulp and other agro products for the Indian market in April 2015 .
- After successful moves to form the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), China, along with experts from the Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa, is holding talks to form a BRICS rating agency that will break the monopoly of the Big Three Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's in April 2015.
- A demand of over Rs 570 crore has been raised against confectionery giant Cadbury India Ltd for allegedly evading excise duty by fraudulently taking exemption for one of its ȳghostȳ production units in Himachal Pradesh in April 2015.
- According to the most visible points in the fresh proposals floated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for capital raising by the so-called new age companies, the minimum size of retail investment should be Rs.10 lakh and each trading lot Rs.5 lakh in April 2015.
- Dena Bank signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India under the Prime Minister's Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti BimaYojana (PMJBY) scheme to provide insurance cover to all Aadhaar-linked savings account holders of the bank in the age group of 18 to 50 years in April 2015 .
- Government will develop Visakhapatnam and Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh as centres of excellence in sea food and aqua exports in April 2015. The two places would be transformed as best shrimp export centres in the coming 20 years.
- In April 2015, The telecom regulator proposed a single number '112' which could be used for all emergency phone calls across the country including for police, fire and ambulance, modelled on the lines of the all-in-one emergency number '911'in the United States.
- In April 2015, Forbes Middle East has released the names of the 100 richest Arab personalities in the world, the first position going to Saudi Arabia's prince Al-Waleed bin Talal bin Abdulaziz al Saud with an estimated fortune of \$22.6 billion.
- In a move to strengthen the last mile delivery of goods to consumers, India's leading online retailer Flipkart has partnered with Dabbawalas of Mumbai in April 2015.
- IDFC Bank will begin operations from October 1 with 20 branches. The company has already got an approval for the same from Reserve Bank of India in April 2015.
- IndusInd Bank has agreed to buy Royal Bank of Scotland's diamond and jewellery financing business in India for an undisclosed sum. The loan book of RBS in diamond and jewellery financing segment is about Rs.4,500 crore and also includes clients of ABN Amro Bank in April 2015.
- In April 2015, Alumni from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay have come together to launch Global Business Forum (GBF).
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has announced signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with AREVA of France for co-operation to maximise localisation of the EPR nuclear power plant to be built at Jaitapur, Maharashtra in April 2015.
- Taiwan won't be among the charter members of the Chinese-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, apparently because of a dispute over what name the island should use in the institution. Russia lifts ban on missile delivery to Iran in April 2015.

- In April 2015, The World Bank has predicted a GDP growth rate of 8 per cent for India by 2017 and said that a strong expansion in the country, coupled with favourable oil prices, would accelerate the economic growth in South Asia. In India, GDP growth is expected to accelerate to 7.5 per cent in fiscal year 2015/16.
- India's rank remained unchanged at 19<sup>th</sup> in 2014 among the top 30 merchandise exporters of the world, while China continues to hold the top slot, according to the WTO report in April 2015.
- India and many influential western nations are among the 57 founder members of the \$50 billion Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in April 2015.
- In April 2015, The Reserve Bank will launch Rs. 10 coins to commemorate the centenary of return of Mahatma Gandhi to India from South Africa.
- Bank account penetration in India increased from 35 per cent to 53 per cent between 2011 and 2014, but the country also suffers from high dormancy rates, says a World Bank report in April 2015. This growth in number of bank accounts means that 175 million in India became account holders between 2011 and 2014.
- In April 2015, Russia will invest \$2 billion in Pakistan to build a 1,100-kilometre pipeline from southern port city of Karachi to Lahore to transport liquefied natural gas.
- Rolls-Royce has won a \$9.2 billion deal to supply engines for 50 A380 aircraft for Dubai's Emirates airline, the largest order in its history and giving it a boost after a torrid year of profit warnings in April 2015.
- In April 2015, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has agreed to take over a part of the abandoned assets of the western offshore Tapti gas field from its joint venture partners Reliance Industries and BG once output falls to zero.
- Tata Teleservices has decided to drop the brand DoCoMo from its telecom brand Tata Docomo months before its agreement with Japanese mobile phone operator NTT DoCoMo to use the brand ends in April 2015.
- The launch of Visakhapatnam, India's first destroyer of Project 15B class, at Mazgaon Docks Limited in April 2015.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping inaugurated a \$46 billion investment plan in Pakistan that aims to create direct links between China and the Arabian Sea and boost the sluggish Pakistani economy in April 2015.
- State-owned power equipment maker BHEL has commissioned a 250-mw coal-based thermal power plant in Gujarat. The unit has been commissioned at the Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Ltd's (GSECL) Sikka thermal power station (TPS) by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL), on EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) basis in April 2015.
- In April 2015, A new World Bank administered programme, with an initial total allocation of around \$45 million, will focus on air quality management in five major urban areas in India, China, Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa .
- Iconic business leader Ratan Tata has acquired a stake in Chinese handset maker Xiaomi, the first investment by any Indian in the smartphone maker in April 2015.
- The first edition of Global Mobile App Summit & Awards (GMSA) to be held at Chennai in May 2015.
- The micro-blogging site Twitter will host Asia's first roadshow in Bengaluru in May 2015.
- In April 2015, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that medium enterprises, social infrastructure and renewable energy would form part of priority sector in addition to the existing categories.
- In April 2015, National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology signed a MoU with e-commerce giant Snapdeal to roll out digital marketing courses, aimed at helping small and medium business and artisans wanting to take the online route to become entrepreneurs.
- Tata Projects has entered into a strategic partnership with Australian construction company, Brookfield Multiplex, to deliver a range of commercial and retail, healthcare and tourism and leisure projects in India in April 2015.
- The Central Government has allowed retirement fund body Employees Provident Fund Organisation to invest 5 per cent of its corpus in exchange traded funds in April 2015.
- Samsung Asset Management Co. Ltd, the largest Asset Manager in Korea signed a memorandum of understanding with Reliance Capital Asset Management, India's largest asset manager in April 2015.
- French IT services company Cap Gemini announced the acquisition of US-based IT services company iGATE for \$4 billion in April 2015.
- Individuals or corporate entities can buy multiple hybrid and electric vehicles at subsidised rate. Only made in India electric or hybrid vehicles are entitled to these benefits.

## **Newsmakers (Personalities)**

- In April 2015, Tata Sons, promoter of the major operating Tata companies, appointed top-ranked investment strategist Farida Khambata as the first woman independent director in the company's 103-year history.
- Wipro Chairman Azim Premji was conferred an award by industry body CII for his outstanding contribution to the Indian industry and society in April 2015 .
- IAS officer Saurabh Vijay was appointed as Adviser to Executive Director of World Bank in Washington in April 2015.
- Vikas Swarup took over as the new face of the External Affairs Ministry, its spokesperson in April 2015 .
- In April 2015, Rajya Sabha member Sitaram Yechury was elected the fifth general secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) .
- Indian-American Vivek Murthy was sworn-in as the U.S. Surgeon- General by Vice-President Joe Biden, becoming the youngest-ever in-charge of the country's public health in April 2015.
- Sangeeta Bhatia, an Indian-origin scientist at MIT, who has developed artificial human microlivers for drug testing, has won a prestigious \$2,50,000 Heinz award for her work in tissue engineering and disease detection in April 2015.

## **Sports**

- In April 2015 Sim Bhullar a former National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) player is to become the first Indian-origin player to put his skills to test in the NBA (National Basketball Association).
- World No. 1 Novak Djokovic win over Andy Murray to claim a fifth Miami Masters title. Djokovic beat Murray for the seventh consecutive time in April 2015.
- Rajeev Shukla was re-appointed as the chairman of the powerful IPL governing council in April 2015.
- Sania Mirza will become the first Indian woman to claim the number one doubles ranking after winning the Charleston title with partner Martina Hingis. Hingis and Sania captured their third doubles title in as many tournaments, after triumphs in the Indian Wells and Miami hard-court events in April 2015.
- India produced a spirited performance to beat Korea 4-1 in the penalty shoot out, after both the teams were locked 2-2 at regulation time, to finish third at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey. A gritty New Zealand surprised world champion Australia 3-1 in the penalty shoot-out in a keenly-contested summit clash to claim its second title in April 2015.

## **May**

### **National**

- Government of India has given its nod for associate membership in CERN in May 2015. The CERN is the world's biggest laboratory of particle physics and operates the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).
- In May 2015, the Central Government reversed its decision on excluding Assam from the purview of its Bill on exchanging land with Bangladesh.
- Union finance minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated the country's first new pulp line unit for production of bank note paper at Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh on May 30, 2015.

### **International**

- The Vatican officially recognized the state of Palestine in a new treaty finalized. The treaty, which concerns the activities of the Catholic Church in Palestinian territory, makes clear that the Holy See has switched its diplomatic recognition from the Palestine Liberation Organization to the state of Palestine.
- India has been placed at a lowly 100<sup>th</sup> position on the global Human Capital Index, which measures countries on development and deployment of human capital. Finland tops the 124-country list.
- India is home to 194.6 million undernourished people, the highest in the world, according to the annual report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
- International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers observed across the world on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 with the theme 'Together for Peace'.

### **Contemporary Economic Development**

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on May 1, 2015, asked asset management companies (AMCs) to have stress testing policy in place to conduct stress test on all liquid fund and money market mutual fund schemes, with immediate effect.

- P. J. Nayak Committee report released on May 4, 2015, has suggested that the smaller PSBs could be merged with the larger ones.
- In May 2015, Microsoft has launched Edu-Cloud, a cloud computing based offering to provide digital learning and teaching in schools and higher educational institutions.
- Ratings agency CRISIL has assigned the highest corporate credit rating of 'CCR AAA' to National Securities Clearing Corporation Ltd (NSCCL). For seventh consecutive year, CRISIL has assigned this rating to NSCCL.
- SBInTouch cards, contactless debit and credit cards are more secure and hassle-free to use at merchant outlets or ATMs and use the NFC technology launched by SBI.
- To help Indian and Chinese corporates in cross-border businesses, top private sector lender ICICI Bank opened its first branch in China on May 16, 2015, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- HDFC Bank, in association with Apollo Hospitals, has launched a co-branded pre-paid card called HDFC Bank Apollo Medical Benefits Card, which will enable corporates to easily disburse medical allowance to their employees without waste of time and incurring any cost.
- Uttar Pradesh has emerged as biggest contributor to India's agriculture and allied sector as of 2013-14 with a share of about 13%, according to a recent ASSOCHAM study.
- ArcelorMittal and Steel Authority of India signed a MoU on May 22, 2015, to set up an automotive steel manufacturing facility in India.
- Bank Unions and industry body Indian Banks' Association (IBA) signed a wage deal after which there will be 15% hike in the salaries and allowances of bank employees in May 2015.
- 15-year-old boxer Mandeep Kaur, has won two gold medals at World Junior Boxing Championship by beating Ireland's Niamh Earley in the final match by a 3-0 margin.
- HDFC Bank is ranked at 74<sup>th</sup> position among the top 100 most valuable brands globally in the BrandZ list compiled by Millward Brown, a global research agency, in association with WPP.

### **Newsmakers (Personalities)**

- Award-winning journalist and litterateur Amitabha Chowdhury died on May 1, 2015, after a prolonged illness.
- Government has appointed Manoj Mishra as Chairman and Managing Director of state-run National Fertilizers Ltd (NFL) on May 24, 2015. The company is the second largest producer of urea in the country.
- R&B and soul singer Ben E King, best known for the classic song Stand By Me, has died on May 1 2015.
- Belgium under-21 international footballer Gregory Mertens died, three days after collapsing with heart failure during a match.
- David Goldberg, a popular Silicon Valley executive and husband of Facebook second in command Sheryl Sandberg, has died suddenly at age 47 in May, 2015. Goldberg was CEO of online survey questionnaire provider survey Monkey.
- Floyd Mayweather emerged with an emphatic win over Manny Pacquiao and thus he adds one more achievement in his 19-year unbeaten record of winning 48 matches.
- John Chambers plans to step down after more than 20 years as the CEO of Cisco Systems Inc. Chuck Robbins as Chambers' successor.
- Guy Carawan, a folk singer and social-justice advocate credited with turning the African-American spiritual "We Shall Overcome" into a unifying anthem of the 1960s civil rights movement, died at 87.
- British-Indian MP Priti Patel has been appointed employment minister in Prime Minister David Cameron's new cabinet on May 11, 2015.
- India named veteran banker K.V. Kamath to be the first President of the New Development Bank, popular as the BRICS bank. The focus of this bank will be to invest in infrastructure in May 2015.
- Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza has made his first appearance in the capital since the threat from Somalia's Islamic extremists, al-Shabaab, against his government in May 2015.
- Eminent Economist Mrinal Datta Chaudhuri passes away, awarded with the Padma Bhushan in the field of Trade and Industry in 2005.
- South Korean President Park Geun-hye named incumbent Justice Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn as the new Prime Minister.

- Senior IAS officer G. Mohan Kumar was appointed as new Defence Secretary for a two-year term on May 22, 2015.
- Neeraj Ghaywan's Masaan won the prestigious critics prize in the Un Certain Regard category, at the 68<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival.
- Tanishq Abraham, an 11-year old Indian-American has become youngest ever in the US to graduate high school on May 23, 2015.
- John Forbes Nash Jr., a mathematical genius whose struggle with schizophrenia was chronicled in the 2001 movie A Beautiful Mind, has died on May 24, 2015, along with his wife in a car crash on the New Jersey Turnpike.
- Muhammadu Buhari formally takes over as Nigeria's President on May 25, 2015.
- German Chancellor Angela Merkel again topped the Forbes annual list. Merkel has made the list 10 times over the past 12 years, nine times as No.1.
- SBI Chief Arundhati Bhattacharya (30<sup>th</sup> rank), ICICI bank head Chanda Kochhar (35<sup>th</sup> rank), Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (85<sup>th</sup> rank), HT Media Chair Shobhana Bhartia (93<sup>rd</sup> rank) are among the world's 100 most powerful Indian women according to the Forbes' 12<sup>th</sup> annual list.
- Government has appointed Rajnish Kumar as the fourth managing director of the State Bank of India on May 26, 2015.
- Lt. General (Retd) Nirbhay Sharma was sworn-in as the governor of Mizoram at the Durbar Hall of Raj Bhavan on May 26, 2015.
- The government has appointed distinguished scientist Dr. S. Christopher as Director General of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Dr. G.S. Reddy as Scientific Advisor to Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar.
- Gurnimrat 'Nimmy' Sidhu, head of science at Oaks Park High School in north-east London, is among 12 teachers to win the 'University of Oxford Inspirational Teacher Award' set up to encourage more state-funded schools to connect with the university.
- Alok Kumar and Jitendra Kumar have been appointed as advisers in NITI Aayog for five years on May 30, 2015, as part of a minor bureaucratic reshuffle affected by the government.

### Awards

- President Pranab Mukherjee presented the 62<sup>nd</sup> National Film Awards. Shashi Kapoor has been honored with the Dadasaheb Phalke award this year. Kangana Ranaut received the best actress honour from the President. The Best Actor award was picked up by Vijay for his "subtle and non-stereotypical playing of a woman trapped in a man's body", in Kannada film Nanu Avanalla Avalu.
- On May 21, 2015, Pramod Patil, a Pune-based ornithologist, has earmarked the £35,000 prize money he got with the Whitley Award (Green Oscar) for conserving the bird.

### Sports

- Floyd Mayweather emerged with an emphatic win over Manny Pacquiao and thus he add one more achievement in his 19-year unbeaten record of winning 48 matches.
- India finished on top in the stroke-play round of the 12<sup>th</sup> SAARC Golf Championship at Bengaluru.
- Ace India discus thrower Vikas Gowda won a bronze medal in the second leg of the prestigious IAAF Diamond League series held on May 17, 2015.
- Novak Djokovic wins over Roger Federer to capture his fourth Rome Masters title. In the women's tournament, Maria Sharapova beat Carla Suarez Navarro to win her third Rome title in May 2015.
- Kochi has been provisionally selected as a host of the 2017 under-17 FIFA World Cup.
- Abhinav Bindra became the fourth Indian shooter to win a quota place for the Rio Olympics. Gagan Narang, Jitu Rai and Apurvi Chandela are the other Indians to have secured an Olympic quota earlier.

### Miscellaneous

- The 6<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Nuclear Energy was organized by ASSOCHAM on May 15, 2015 in New Delhi. The theme of the conference was "Nuclear Energy: a 'Clean' Energy option".
- Meghalaya has achieved 100 percent success in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna. All households in the state have been successfully covered under the scheme.
- The Republic of Ireland has voted to legalize same-sex marriage in a historic referendum and has become the first country to legalize same-sex marriage in May 2015.



- US state of Nebraska abolished death penalty on May 27, 2015.
- National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) and Data Security Council of India have launched NASSCOM Cyber Security Task Force on May 25, 2015.
- Manobi Bandopadhyay became the first person from the transgender community to head an educational institution in India. Professor Bandopadhyay will take over as Principal of Krishnanagar Women's College in Nadia district of West Bengal.
- The first mega food park of North East is inaugurated at Nathkuchi in Nalbari district of Assam on May 28, 2015.
- NASA's Messenger spacecraft has crashed into the surface of Mercury, ending its historic 11-year mission.
- The Indian Army inducted the first regiment of the indigenously-developed Akash surface-to-air missile system, capable of targeting a multitude of aerial threats up to a range of 25 km. Akash has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation and is being built by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- The indigenously-developed beyond visual range air-to-air missile, Astra was successfully launched from Su-30 MKI fighter jet in two developmental trials conducted at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha.
- Indigenously-built guided missile stealth frigate INS Satpura and anti-submarine corvette INS Kamrota participated in SIMBEX-15, a bilateral naval exercise with Singapore.
- An advanced version of the indigenously developed Pinaka Mark-II rocket was successfully test-fired on May 30, 2015 from Army's Chandan firing range near Pokhran using a multi-barrel launcher .

## **June**

### **National**

- Narendra Modi became the first Indian prime minister to travel to Israel in June 2015.
- In June 2015, India has launched a virtual Memorial Wall to honour its soldiers who laid down their lives while serving in UN peacekeeping operations.
- The government has approved signing of an agreement between India and Sweden to promote cooperation in the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector in June 2015.
- From December, 2015 the Government will roll out for persons with disabilities universal identity cards having a unique number with which their details can be accessed by the click of a button.
- The government has increased the service tax to 14 per cent from the current 12.36 per cent applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2015 in a move that will make eating out in restaurants, insurance and phone bills expensive, among many other things.
- In June 2015, the Telangana government has launched pentavalent vaccine under the universal immunisation programme. The pentavalent vaccine is a combination of DPT (diphtheria, Pertussis/whooping cough and tetanus), Hepatitis B and Hib vaccines.
- Tourist town of Shimla has become part of "Green Growth Cities" in June 2015.
- In June 2015, India has undocked its first indigenously-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant at Cochin Shipyard Limited in Kochi.
- In June 2015, Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal has been conferred with the prestigious 14<sup>th</sup> Sant Namdev National Award in Pune.
- Indian-origin scientist Manu Prakash developed World's first water-based computer in June 2015.
- The Union cabinet approved an interest-free loan of Rs 6,000 crore to enable sugar mills pay arrears to farmers in June 2015.
- The Union government has approved Rs. 4,720.92 crore highways projects in Madhya Pradesh and Telangana in June 2015 .
- UIDAI generates 12 crore Aadhaar numbers in UP, Lucknow tops tally with 34.51 lakh Aadhaar generation followed by Allahabad with 33.07 lakh and Kanpur Nagar with 31.83 lakh Aadhaar generations till June 2015 .
- Jind and Karnal districts of Haryana and Muzaffarnagar of Uttar Pradesh were included in National Capital Region in June 2015.
- Space Pioneer award for the year 2015 was presented to Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in the Science and Engineering category during the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual International Space Development Conference held at Toronto in Canada in June 2015.

- In June 2015, According to a World Bank report, India has figured in top five emerging economies for highest investment commitments in private sector, infrastructure sectors - energy, transport and water.
- Maharashtra government has decided to create a non-banking financial services (NBFS) institution to use the surplus money lying with the state-run corporations in June 2015 .
- Indian Railways has rolled out a non-AC coach of Rewari-Sitapur passenger train lit by solar panels installed on its roof in June 2015 .
- China has conducted the fourth successful test of a new Wu-14 hypersonic strike vehicle which is capable of delivering nuclear weapons in June 2015 .
- In Darjeeling of West Bengal, the Toy Train services have been resumed after a gap of nearly five years in June 2015. The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, consists of 88.48 Km of narrow gauge track that connects New Jalpaiguri with Darjeeling, passing through Ghoom at an altitude of 2258 meters .
- In June 2015, Scientists at the Indian Botanical Garden in West Bengal's Howrah district have carried out artificial pollination of the only double coconut tree in India, which bears the largest seed known to science.
- In June 2015, The government has approved setting up of an All India Institute of Ayurveda, the first referral-cum-teaching facility in the world's oldest health care system in New Delhi.
- In June 2015 , Astronomers have found a new "Star Wars-like" planet orbiting in the "habitable zone" of two stars, the 10" such exoplanet located by Nasa's Kepler Mission.
- In June 2015, A group of city scientists of Pune has discovered a new leaping frog species on the edge of the Netravali wildlife sanctuary in Goa.
- In June 2015, The Andhra Pradesh government has launched 'Mee Bhoomi', a digital depository of land records.
- Union Government has launched an Indian Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP) of 1,500 crore rupees as per the mandatory provision under the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 in June 2015.
- In June 2015, V K Singh inaugurated first India-China Yoga College at Yunnan Minzu University, China.
- NTPC starts 200 MW capacity of Koldam plant in Himachal Pradesh in June 2015.
- In June 2015, Andhra Pradesh government has issued orders introducing the revised scales of pay recommended by the 10<sup>th</sup> Pay Revision Commission giving a fitment benefit of 43 per cent on basic pay as against 29 per cent recommended by the PRC.
- In June 2015 , The Union government has launched an insurance pool of Rs. 1,500 crore, mandatory under the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act to offset the financial burden on foreign nuclear suppliers in case of an accident.
- Union government has launched Migrant Resource Centre in Chennai in June 2015.
- Indian Railways has named Haridwar Mail as Yoga Express in June 2015 .
- India has signed a motor vehicles agreement with three SAARC nations — Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal — that envisages seamless transit of passenger and cargo vehicles among these countries in June 2015.
- In June 2015, All Northeastern states had decided to have at least one Integrated Check Post (ICPs) along the international border that will soon be called as 'Landport'.
- India is currently ranked 142<sup>nd</sup> among 189 nations in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2015 study released in June 2015.
- In June 2015, The Indian Bird Conservation Network (IBCN) will compile a bird atlas of Kerala, which will be the first bird atlas of an Indian State.
- CSIR set up India's first Micro Air Vehicle Aerodynamics Research Tunnel in Bengaluru in June 2015.
- In June 2015, Union Government has launched Augmented Reality technology based mobile application named 'Sakaar' to highlight the achievements of the Department of Space.
- In June 2015, the Union government has decided to increase the number of workdays under MGNREGA from 100 days to 150 days in drought-affected areas.
- In June 2015, As per recently released Global Peace Index for year 2015, India was placed at 143<sup>rd</sup> rank out 162 countries and fifth out of seven in south Asia for the second year in a row.
- In the 2015-16 Budget, the Centre granted additional tax deduction of Rs. 50,000 to contributions made to the National Pension System.

- In June 2015, the Cabinet gave its approval to the 'Housing for All by 2022' scheme being pushed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide housing to urban poor.
- At nearly US\$157 per sq. ft. per annum (Rs 10,000), Delhi's Central Business District (CBD) of Connaught Place was ranked as the fifth most expensive prime office market in the world in June 2015.
- Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh has launched a weather alert service named NOWCAST in June 2015.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved inclusion of Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh in the list of States to be covered under the National Dairy Plan- I (NDP-I) in June 2015.
- In June 2015, Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghuvar Das imposed a ban on the sale of thermocol plates in the entire state to promote leaf plates.
- The Bihar government ordered its employees to attend their office dressed in 'khadi' at least two days in a week in June 2015.
- India is discovered Chengdu a globally integrated economic hub as a gateway to western China and cyber-connected parts of the Asia-Pacific in June 2015.
- Astronomers have named a newly discovered galaxy as CR7 (COSMOS Redshift 7) after Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo. Ronaldo is famously known as CR7 after his initials and his jersey number in June 2015.
- The Defence Ministry tops government departments contributing the highest number of RTI appeals before CIC till June 2015.
- Haryana Government has launched a Village Mentoring Project (VMP) in a bid to improve healthcare and education of the villagers with a special emphasis on girl child in June 2015.
- Madhya Pradesh will be first state in the country where production units of solar panels and wind rotors are being set up with an investment of Rs 1,100 crore. Wind energy giant Suzlon group is investing Rs 500 crore in its wind rotor plant near Indore. World's largest 750MW solar power plant is being set up in Rewa district of state.
- Visually challenged candidates and those with locomotor disability and cerebral palsy can use scribes to write the Civil Services preliminary and main examinations, the Union Public Service Commission has said in June 2015 .
- Railway minister Suresh Prabhu has flagged off India's first diesel electric multiple unit (DEMU) train service with an air-conditioned coach Kochi in June 2015.
- In a first, the NALSAR Law University in Hyderabad has issued a gender-neutral graduation certificate to a student who did not wish to be identified with honorific Mr or Ms but with "Mx" in June 2015.
- The first One-Stop Crisis Centre for women in distress out of the proposed 660 is set to be inaugurated in Chhattisgarh under the Nirbhaya Fund in June 2015.
- The BJP-led government has declared the Blue Mormon (*Papilio polymnestor*) as the State butterfly of Maharashtra in June 2015. No State in India has ever declared a State butterfly.
- The central government designates Agatti and Minicoy Islands in Lakshadweep Union Territory as an authorised Immigration Check Post for entry into or exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers in June 2015..
- INS Sindhukirti set for final full-power trials after being stuck in a refit for a decade, the Kilo-class submarine is expected to be formally handed over to the Navy in July 2015.
- In June 2015, National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI), India's oldest and largest shipping trade union, has been honoured with the 'Best Welfare Organization of the Year – 2015' award, promoted by the United Kingdom-based International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network.
- The Centre launched a mobile application "Bhuvan Ganga", to aid Clean Ganga Mission in June 2015.
- In June 2015, A research conducted by the Institute for Economic and Peace has ranked India as the 143<sup>rd</sup> out of the 162 nations listed in the Global Peace Index .
- According to data released by the Union ministry of new and renewable energy on June 4, 2015, Rajasthan has grabbed number one position in solar energy in India.
- The Centre has decided to change the name and nature of Solar Energy Corporation of India as Renewable Energy Corporation of India (RECI).
- In June 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) in Varanasi. The IPDS is one of the flagship programmes of the Ministry of Power and will be at the core attempt to ensure 24x7 power for all.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) on June 28, 2015 at Barhi in Hazaribagh district, Jharkhand.
- Two Indian organisations Army and Railways - are among the world's biggest employers, together employing a whopping 2.7 million people, according to a research published by the World Economic Forum in June 2015..
- Sahibganj district in Jharkhand will be the first district to have toilets under Clean Ganga project in June 2015..
- In June 2015, Chengannur town in Alappuzha district of Kerala is set to host the third edition of international literary festival.
- The DD News magazine named "Varttaval," focuses on events from around the world. The programme, includes news, features and discussions and will be entirely in Sanskrit was launched in June 2015.
- Yoga made compulsory for 10-lakh strong central paramilitary forces by central government in June 2015. .
- The government plans to set up a 500 crore rupee venture capital fund to boost domestic pharma industry and provide cheaper loans to entities looking to establish or upgrade manufacturing facilities in June 2015. .
- In June 2015 , the much-awaited Chennai Metro Rail was launched by Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu J Jayalalithaa. The first train started from Alandur and headed to Koyambedu.

### International

- In June 2015, the government of Mauritius designated Ameenah Gurib-Fakim as the Indian Ocean island nation's new President, making her the first woman to hold the ceremonial position.
- In June 2015, Bangladesh is set to honour former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for his outstanding support for the country's independence from Pakistan in 1971.
- In June 2015, Mauritius has regained the position as top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India by pushing Singapore to the second slot in 2014-15. Mauritius accounted for about 29 per cent of the country's total FDI inflows last fiscal.
- Asia overtakes Europe as world's second richest region in June 2015.
- Indian-Australian Labor Member of Parliament Daniel Mookhey recently created history in Australia by becoming the first politician to take oath on the Bhagavad Gita in June 2015.
- Japan has passed a law lower the voting age to 18 years from its current 20 years in June 2015.
- China has made the world's first electric passenger aircraft that could be used in pilot training, tourism, meteorology and rescue operations in June 2015. The BX1E has a 14.5-meter wingspan and a maximum payload of 230 kgs.
- China opened the second land crossing in Tibet via Nathu La to allow the Indian pilgrims undertaking the arduous Kailash-Manasarovar Yatra, in the latest confidence-building measure between the two neighbours in June 2015.
- The European Union has extended economic sanctions against Russia until January to keep pressure on Moscow over the conflict in eastern Ukraine. In response, Russia extended its ban on the import of many agricultural products from the EU in June 2015.
- G-20 meet to be held in Turkey in the month of November 2015 to focus on 3-I agenda i.e. Inclusiveness, implementation and investment.
- In June 2015 ,the World Resources Institute (WRI), a global research organization report shows India despite being the fourth largest carbon emitter continues to be far behind the other three top big emitters in terms of per capita emission.
- According to World Investment Report 2015 of UNCTAD, India is among the top 10 FDI recipients during the year 2014 .

### Contemporary Economic Developments

- State-run operator BSNL will not charge mobile phone users for incoming calls when on roaming from June 15, 2015 onwards.
- Power generation machinery maker Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has secured the single-largest order in its history for setting up a 4,000 MW (5x800 MW) supercritical thermal power project from Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Limited (TSGENCO) in June 2015.
- In June 2015, India and five other nations have joined a multilateral agreement for automatic exchange of financial information, a move that will help it combat tax evasion and deal with the problem of black money .
- Axis Bank allows booking of lockers via mobile app in June 2015 .

- Competition Commission has approved Sundaram Finance's proposed Rs. 450 crore deals to buy out UK—based RSA Group's entire 26 per cent stake in their venture Royal Sundaram Alliance Insurance Company in June 2015 .
- Indian insurance giant LIC has been allowed to form a joint venture in Bangladesh, becoming the second foreign insurer to operate in the country in June 2015.
- Vedanta Ltd, formerly Sesa Sterlite, has acquired 4.98 per cent stake in Cairn India for \$315 million from a wholly owned subsidiary Twinstar Mauritius Holdings (TSMHL) in June 2015.
- Prominent scientist Ameenah Gurib-Fakim was approved by the parliament of Mauritius as the Indian Ocean island nation's new president in June 2015, making her the first woman to hold the ceremonial position .
- Aditya Birla Nuvo (ABNL), a diversified conglomerate operating in the services and manufacturing sectors, has entered into definitive joint venture (JV) agreements with MMI Holdings Ltd. of South Africa to enter the health insurance and wellness business in India in June 2015.
- In June 2015, Online marketplace Snapdeal and supply chain company Gojavas have joined hands.
- World Bank has allocated \$400 million as loan for the Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project in June 2015.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has been awarded the Miniratna (Category -1) status by the Department of Public Enterprises under the Union Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises in June 2015.
- In June 2015, White label operator, Tata Communications Payment Solutions, has partnered with FINO PayTech, a payment technology provider, to set up more ATM services in rural unbanked regions.
- Indian Medical Association's (IMA) first-ever Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug (JAGD) Store was inaugurated on 5 June 2015 at its headquarters in IP Estate, New Delhi.
- SBI Life Insurance has introduced 'Connect Life', a tablet-based service to digitize the entire documentation process in June 2015 .
- HDFC Bank has launched Pay Zapp, a complete digital payment and purchases solution, a one-stop online portal in June 2015.
- US becomes biggest oil producer in 2014, surpasses Saudi Arabia in June 2015 .
- The Reserve Bank of India has issued Draft Framework on Issuance of Rupee linked Bonds Overseas. It is intended to permit Indian corporate and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to issue rupee-linked bonds overseas in June 2015.
- Karnataka Bank Ltd has been awarded with ISO 27001:2013 certification by NQA, a UK-based accreditation certifying body in June 2015.
- Reserve bank of India has allowed postpaid mobile service, piped gas and water supply bills to be submitted as proof of address for opening account with banks or other financial institutions in June 2015.
- RBI allows AIFIs to reverse excess provision on sale of NPAs in June 2015.
- India's financial market regulatory framework got the top-most ratings from the global bodies of banking and capital market regulators, with RBI and SEBI being rated better than their peers in China and the U.S in June 2015.
- In June 2015, The Reserve Bank has allowed non-resident Indians to invest in chit funds on non-repatriation basis without any ceiling, a move that will encourage flow of capital into the country.
- NCDEX, a commodity exchange has announced the launch of a new national market for gold, with Chennai as delivery centre in June 2015.
- The financing agreement for World Bank (IDA) assistance of USD 308.40 million for National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project-II (NCRMP-II) was signed between the Government of India and World Bank in June 2015.
- A special Strategic Manufacturing Skills Council (SMSC) is being set up with key private sector players, including Godrej, Mahindra's, L&T, Bharat Forge and the Tata's being brought together by the CII to train and certify workers for defense manufacturing, with the support of the government in June 2015.
- Global payment service provider Western Union tied up with mid-sized private lender Yes Bank for international direct-to-bank transfers in June 2015.
- In June 2015, Karbonn has decided to set up its first mobile phone manufacturing facility in Hyderabad.
- State Bank of India has launched "SBI eforex", an internet-based platform that enables customers to book their foreign exchange transactions online in June 2015 .

- Country's second-largest private sector lender, HDFC Bank has launched a 10-second paperless instant loan plan for its existing customers in June 2015.
- In June 2015, To reduce cash transactions in the country, the Centre proposed income tax benefits for those making payments through credit or debit cards.
- ICICI Bank, the country's largest private sector lender, has tied up with Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba to provide easier trade finance to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country in June 2015.
- Japan's Softbank announced a joint venture with Sunil Bharti Mittal's Bharti Enterprises and Taiwanese manufacturing major Foxconn Technology Group for solar power projects in June 2015.
- In a major boost for start-ups, capital markets regulator SEBI relaxed its regulations for them to list and raise funds through a dedicated platform on domestic stock exchanges, rather than going overseas.
- In June 2015, India has emerged as the third largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for United Kingdom (UK) after United States (US) and France in terms of number of projects.
- SBI Capital Markets, the merchant banking arm of State Bank of India, has appointed Praveen Gupta as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer in June 2015 .
- In June 2015, to promote very small businesses, the Centre aims to facilitate credit up to Rs. 1 lakh crore under the MUDRA scheme in the current fiscal.
- Barclays, Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, HSBC and SBI Capital Markets are being tipped to lead NTPC's debut issuance of offshore rupee-linked bonds in June 2015 .
- Retirement fund body EPFO notified an order to make Universal Account Number (UAN) mandatory for all employers in June 2015.
- In June 2015, 11 Indian companies, including Avanti Feeds Ltd., and Borosil Glass Works, are ranked among top 200 Asia Pacific corporations in Forbes Asia's 'Best under a Billion' list.
- In June 2015 , the Reserve Bank of India had decided to allow banks to borrow from global multilateral financial institutions for general banking business.
- New Development Bank (NDB), also known as the BRICS Bank, is expected commence operations and start financing projects by April 2016.
- Beijing will be by far the largest shareholder at about 30 percent, the articles of association posted on the website of China's finance ministry showed. India is the second biggest at 8.4 percent with Russia third on 6.5 percent in NDB.
- United Bank of India has topped the list of public sector lenders with maximum bad loans including restructured assets as a percentage of total advances in June 2015.
- Private insurer Bajaj Allianz has launched a weather-based crop insurance scheme for orange crops in Nagpur, Hingoli and Washim districts of Maharashtra in June 2015.
- Aditya Puri, managing director (MD) of HDFC Bank, continues to be the highest paid bank chief in the country in the financial year 2014-15.
- The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has asked its officials to encourage assesses facing notices to get tax disputes expeditiously resolved through the Settlement Commission mechanism in June 2015.
- FDI in services sector grows by 46% in 2014-15, reaches \$ 3.2 bn in June 2015.
- Hannover Re to offer reinsurance cover for Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.
- BSNL has launched free roaming from, allowing all its mobile customers across the country to receive incoming calls at no cost in June 2015.
- Country's second largest private sector lender HDFC Bank launched '30-min auto' and '15-min 2-wheeler' loan schemes, for which customers have to provide only their biometric details in June 2015.
- Amazon.com Inc. will launch its business loan programme for small sellers later this year in China, India and six other countries in June 2015.
- Facebook launched a new version of its app "Facebook Lite" for Android phones in India that has been optimized for slower data connections in June 2015.
- In June 2015, Sunil Mittal-led Bharti Airtel has become the world's third largest mobile operator with 303 million subscribers Sunil Mittal-led Bharti Airtel has become the world's third largest mobile operator with 303 million subscribers.

- In June 2015, The World Bank has approved an additional loan of \$650 million for the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC).
- In June 2015, State Bank of India, country's largest bank, partnered with online travel company MakeMyTrip.com to capitalise on the business opportunities of the booming e-commerce and m-commerce ecosystem.

### **Newsmakers (Personalities)**

- Creator of Chandigarh's iconic rock garden, Nek Chand passed away in June 2015.
- Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has sacked Dr Bimal K Roy as the Director of Indian Statistical Institute in June 2015.
- Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd (Arcil), India's first asset reconstruction company, has announced the appointment of Vinayak Bahuguna as its Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director in June 2015.
- In June 2015, Beno Zephine becomes first 100% blind officer in IFS.
- UN General Assembly has chosen a new President, selecting Mogens Lykketoft of Denmark to serve the one-year term in June 2015 .
- Writer Aakar Patel joined Amnesty International India as its new executive director in June 2015.
- Nilesh Shivji Vikamsey has been appointed part-time Chairman of Federal Bank as approved by RBI in June 2015.
- Justice Gian Parkash Mittal has resigned from the Office of the Judge of Delhi High Court with effect from July 8, 2015.
- Eminent Historian-writer Ramachandra Guha has been selected for Japan's Fukuoka Prize 2015 in the Academic category in June 2015.
- In June 2015, Sister Nirmala, who succeeded Nobel laureate Mother Teresa as the superior-general of the Missionaries of Charity, died. She was 81.
- Anil Dattatraya Sahasrabudhe is the new chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) .
- The Executive Director of Greenpeace India, Samit Aich, resigned in June 2015.
- In June 2015, Praful Bidwai a veteran journalist, author and anti-nuclear activist has died in the Netherlands after choking on a piece of meat while having dinner. He was 65.
- State Bank of India has appointed Anshula Kant as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in June 2015 .
- Lenovo has appointed Rahul Agarwal as the Managing Director of its India operations in June 2015.
- Air Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa, a Kargil war veteran, took over as the Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force in June 2015.
- Ratna Vishwanathan will take charge as Chief Executive Officer of Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) with effect from July 1.
- K V Chowdary, former chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), has been appointed the new central vigilance commissioner. Vijai Sharma has been named the new chief information commissioner in June 2015.
- Senior IPS Officer RC Tayal was appointed as the Director General (DG) of National Security Guard (NSG) in June 2015 .

### **Awards**

- Former security contractor Edward Snowden won a Norwegian prize for freedom of expression and received yet another invitation to leave his exile and receive the award in person in June 2015.
- Scam-tainted Suresh Kalmadi has been conferred with the Asian Athletics Association President's award for his contribution towards the development of athletics in the continent at the AAA Gala Dinner and award ceremony in Wuhan.
- R Seetharaman, CEO of Doha Bank, has been conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the industry and his support for the environment and the business in June 2015.
- UK Author Ali Smith on 3 June 2015 won the 2015 Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction for her novel How to be Both.
- Eleven Indo-Canadians have been honoured here with 'ICCC Annual Awards 2015' for strengthening bilateral ties and their business achievements besides contributions to the economy in June 2015 .
- B Jayant Baliga, a US-based Indian-origin scientist, is awarded Russia's top technology award in recognition of his work as a major development in energy management which brought about huge increase in efficiency and major savings in June 2015.
- India has been ranked third behind Russia and Turkey in a World Anti-Doping Agency Report for 2013.

- C.N.R. Rao conferred with Japan's highest civilian award 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star' in June 2015.
- One of the foremost south Indian classical vocalists, Sanjay Subrahmanyam has been selected for the 'Sangita Kalanidhi' award 2015.
- UK NRI philanthropist chosen for V K Krishna Menon Award in June 2015.
- The Sahitya Akademi, announced the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for this year, in which five novelists, four writers of short stories, and three authors of poetries, have been awarded for their contribution to children's literature in June 2015 .
- Indian spiritual leader, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has been conferred with Colombia's highest civilian award in June 2015.
- The Sahitya Akademi has announced prestigious Bhasha Samman to Jaspal Singh and Vasant Nirgune for their contribution to the enrichment of classical and medieval literature (northern) and Bhili language respectively in June 2015 .
- In June 2015 ,the district Magistrate of Nadia along with chief of Nadia Zilla Parishad in West Bengal was presented the United Nations Public Services Award 2015 for eliminating open defecation in the district .
- In June 2015 , A UN accredited global NGO, the Loomba Foundation, will provide vocational skills and training to 5,000 poor widows in Varanasi.
- 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) informally known as the "Bollywood Oscars," was held in Malaysia in June 2015.

## **Sports**

- Archer Deepika Kumari win bronze medal in Women's Recurve event at Antalya Archery World Cup, Turkey in June 2015.
- The President of the BCCI (Jagmohan Dalmiya) nominated Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and V.V.S. Laxman as members of the Cricket Advisory Committee of the BCCI in June 2015.
- S. Ravi has become the second Indian, after S. Venkataraghavan, to be inducted into the International Cricket Council's Elite Panel of Umpires in June 2015.
- M.R. Poovamma, the fastest qualifier in the semifinals, retained her 400m silver while Liksy Joseph came up with an inspired performance for the heptathlon silver at the 21<sup>st</sup> Asian athletics championship in Wuhan in June 2015 .
- American Justin Gatlin snatched the track record held by sprint rival Usain Bolt as he cruised to victory in the men's 100 metres at the Rome Diamond League in June 2015.
- In June 2015, Serena Williams won her 20<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam title and third French Open crown at Roland Garros, clawing her way back from a break down in the last set to defeat Lucie Safarova
- Vikas Gowda retained his men's discus throw title at the 21<sup>st</sup> Asian athletics championships in Wuhan in June 2015.
- Stanislas Wawrinka stunned the World Number One Novak Djokovic to win his maiden French Open title in June 2015.
- Safarova-Mattek-Sands won French Open women's doubles title in June 2015.
- Defending world champion Lewis Hamilton bounced back and increased his lead in the drivers world championship when he drove to a well-measured victory ahead of Mercedes team-mate Nico Rosberg in the Canadian Grand Prix in June 2015.
- Barcelona has lifted the UEFA Champions League trophy for the fifth time in June 2015.
- Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) co-owner Shah Rukh Khan has acquired Caribbean Premier League (CPL) T20 team Trinidad & Tobago (T&T) in June 2015.
- Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni is among Forbes magazine's 100 highest-paid athletes in the world till June 2015. He is the only Indian sportsman on the list that has been topped again by American boxer Floyd Mayweather.
- Nadal becomes 1<sup>st</sup> man to win titles on both clay and grass surface after winning Stuttgart Open in June 2015
- Sunil Chhetri becomes first Indian to score 50 international goals till June 2015.
- The former Pakistan captain Zaheer Abbas has been appointed as president of the International Cricket Council in June 2015.

## **July**

### **National**

- On July 1, 2015 India has given clearance to Bangladesh to open its fifth diplomatic mission in India. The new Deputy High Commission will be opened in Guwahati, the capital of Assam.
- Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar on July 1, 2015 launched new automation software, ARPAN 3.0 for the over 12



lakh soldiers of the Indian Army which would provide them easy access to their service records including pay and leave details and transfer and postings among others.

- Army has launched “Operation Shiva” on Jul 2, 2015, to ensure smooth conduct of about two-month long annual Amarnath Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The census, released by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Rural Development Minister Chaudhary Birendra Singh here on July 3, 2015 finds that the number of mobile-phone connections far exceeds that of landlines in rural India. According to the Socio Economic and Caste Census, 2011, nearly 28 per cent of rural households in India still do not have access to a phone, whether landline or mobile.
- With an aim of conserving college campuses which are more than 100 years old, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has granted “heritage” status to 19 institutions on July 6, 2015. Cotton College of Guwahati has received maximum grants of Rs 4.35 crore for conservation of its heritage building.
- The Supreme Court on July 6, 2015 directed that unwed mothers can get birth certificates issued for their biological children merely by furnishing an affidavit to this effect.
- The government of Meghalaya has entered into collaboration with Microsoft India to launch ‘Smart Classroom’ programme in the state in July 2015.
- India has halved its incidence of extreme poverty, from 49.4% in 1994 to 24.7% in 2011 ahead of the deadline of 2015 set by the United Nations, shows the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Report 2015 released on July 2015.
- The World Bank has ranked India’s rural employment guarantee programme, MNREGA, as the world’s largest public works one, providing social security net to almost 15 per cent of the country’s population.
- The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme as the second-largest unconditional cash transfer social security programme in the world ranked by World Bank.
- The government has increased minimum wage across the country to Rs 160 a day from Rs 137 with effect from 1 July, 2015.
- In the month of July the Indian Government allowed foreign investors to conduct business through more than one joint venture in India.
- As per the reports India has overtaken the US to become the world’s third largest steel producer.
- The Andhra Pradesh government is going to establish an ‘Energy University’ with focus on research orientation and development of energy efficiency, energy conservation, and renewable sources.
- Two sectors banking and defense would be kept out of the new provisions of composite cap for foreign investment, given their “strategic importance”.
- According to the Union Tourism Ministry data, tourist arrivals in India registered a double-digit growth in 2014 over the previous year. Tamil Nadu remained the favorite destination for domestic and foreign visitors.
- After dithering for long, the Gujarat government issued a notification in July 2015, making voting in local body elections compulsory under the controversial Gujarat Local Authorities Laws (Amendment), Act 2009 (2014).
- Manila-headquartered Asian Development Bank (ADB) inked USD 300 million loan pact with the government to support the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) in July 2015.

## **International**

- With Greece’s failure to repay the roughly 1.6 billion euros (\$1.8 billion) to the IMF, Greece became the first developed country to fall into arrears on payments to the fund. The last country to do so was Zimbabwe in 2001.
- As per the Russian space agency, Russian cosmonaut Gennady Padalka, has set a new record for most time spent in space, with a total of 803 days.
- The World Health Organization announced that Cuba has become the first country in the world to stamp out transmission of HIV and syphilis from a mother to her child in July 2015.
- China has proposed a trilateral economic corridor with India through Nepal and a railway line linking the three nations via Tibet besides undertaking of joint reconstruction of projects to rebuild quake-hit Nepal.
- Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi, in a national address in July 2015 declared the state of emergency for a renewable period of 30 days after 38 tourists, mainly Britons, died in an attack in the resort city of Sousse.
- Chile won the Copa America title for the first time in its history after a dramatic penalty shootout against Lionel Messi’s Argentina in the final in Santiago on July 4, 2015.

- France's Champagne vineyard where the world's famous sparkling wine is produced is now among UNESCO 'World Heritage' sites.
- The heads of state of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are meeting in the Russian city of Ufa for seventh BRICS Summit, to start the BRICS Development Bank in Shanghai, which will be headed by Indian banker K.V. Kamath for the first six years.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin resolved to take strategic bilateral ties forward and discussed India's accession to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- India and the US signed an Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) to implement the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) to promote transparency on tax matters in July 2015.
- In the month of July, 2015, India was accepted as a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a six-member regional grouping, to which Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered to work in combating terror and boosting trade by easing barriers.
- India launched its heaviest commercial space mission ever with its polar rocket PSLV-C28 successfully putting five British satellites into the intended orbit after a flawless take off from the Satish Dhawan space Centre in July 2015.
- The fourth edition of the Indo-UK Bilateral exercise Indradhanush gets underway in the UK on July 21, 2015 with an aim to enhance mutual operational understanding between the two Air Forces.
- The New Development Bank (NDB) floated by the BRICS nations, formally started its operations at its headquarters in Shanghai.
- The World Trade Organization General Council at its headquarters in Geneva formally accepted Kazakhstan's as its new member.
- INSAT-3D, India's Advanced Weather Satellite, has completed two successful years in orbit.
- China to connect world's largest telescope to supercomputer. When it is completed in 2016, the 500-metre aperture spherical telescope (Fast) will be the world's largest, overtaking Puerto Rico's Arecibo Observatory, which is only 300 meters in diameter.

### **Contemporary Economic Developments**

- E-commerce major Flipkart has been ranked second among top book sellers of the world, according to a survey. Flipkart is the only Indian brand to be ranked among the top five, says the survey report 'Top 40 Global Bookstore Mind Share' (BMS Index).
- India's GDP crossed the \$2-trillion mark in 2014, according to data released by the World Bank in July 2015. After taking 60 years to reach the \$1-trillion mark, India added the next trillion in just seven years.
- To make Indian currency less prone to counterfeiting, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has started printing Rs 100 notes on which the last six numerals of the nine-digit currency note number will be in ascending print size from left to right.
- In the month of July, 2015, BSNL launched a pre-paid card linked mobile wallet service which would allow its customers to transfer money, pay for services as well as withdraw cash of up to Rs. 1 lakh.
- HDFC Bank has become the first bank in India to launch Watch Banking for Apple Watch in July 2015.. It aims to provide banking services through all wearable devices across platforms like iOS and Android.
- Ratan Tata-led Tata Trust has tied up with Google India under the joint initiative, called Internet Saathi, to educate rural women about the internet in July 2015.
- Reserve Bank said the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in manufacturing of tobacco products is prohibited, though activities such as retail and wholesale trading fall under the sectoral restrictions.
- The country's largest lender State Bank of India launched "Project Tatkal" to provide doorstep services and expedite home loan application process.
- Corporation Bank is the first bank to launch the MUDRA card based on the RuPay platform. The card facilitates the withdrawal and use of the working capital finance by micro entrepreneurs.
- State-run IDBI Bank has signed an agreement with Mudra Bank for refinancing of loans given to small enterprises in July 2015.
- With the aim of bringing all post offices in the country into one network through the core banking project, the first postal ATM facility for account holders of postal savings was opened in Mysuru.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched two programmes - shrimp price information over SMS by a missed call, and m-KRISHI, a mobile app to provide all kinds of information to the aqua farmers.

- In its World Economic Outlook Update released here, IMF retained India's growth projection for current year at 7.5 per cent which will be higher than China's 6.8 per cent.
- Vodafone India has entered into a strategic tie-up with Walmart India to enable payments using its mobile payments service, M-Pesa.
- NABARD, the national financial institution will act as a channel through which the Green climate fund (GCF) will deploy its resources in India.
- Doha Bank, which commenced its India operations in April 2015, has identified Tier-II Indian cities and cheap loans as two of the main vehicles for wooing small entrepreneurs with competitive lending rate in July 2015.
- State Bank of Travancore (SBT) has launched the 'SBT NRI Family Card,' a prepaid card for resident Indians family member/dependent/acquaintance of NRIs.
- In a sign that reflects investor's confidence in the Centre's 'Make in India' initiative, the foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country has witnessed a 48 per cent jump in the seven-month period till April 2015.
- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has set up a new fund "SMILES" for Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the manufacturing sector by which they can get soft loans and term loans at concessional interest rates.
- Snapdeal Co-founder and Chief Executive Kunal Bahl, and Kshatrapati Shivaji, chairman and managing director of SIDBI has signed a MoU to provide financial help to India's MSMEs.
- The Government of India, Andhra Pradesh and the World Bank on July 16, 2015 signed a \$250-million credit agreement for the Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project.
- The Reserve Bank of India has permitted banks without ATM network to issue debit cards in tie-up with a bank that has its own network as it pushes for cashless transactions.
- The government has sanctioned an additional Rs 700 crore for the recapitalization of weak regional rural banks (RRBs) and extended the validity period for the fund infusion to next fiscal.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given approval for the development of six-laning of Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE) in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the creation of an intra-State transmission system in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan at an estimated cost of Rs. 8,548.68 crore.
- The Reserve Bank of India has signed a special currency swap agreement with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka that will allow the latter to draw up to \$1.1 billion.
- NABARD has launched a project "Eshakti" for digitization of all SHGs (Self Help Groups) in the country.
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 420 crore on leading automobile manufacturer Hyundai Motors for unfair trade practices.
- The Andhra Pradesh government decided to create 'an equipment bank' designed to supply equipment for all works, to provide support to the state in this regard and help it in financing too.
- RBI to issue 10 rupee coin to mark International Yoga Day. The coin bears the logo of the International Day of Yoga, with the inscription Saamanjasya evam shanthi ke liye yog " in Devnagri script and "yoga for harmony and peace" around the logo.

### **Newsmakers (Personalities)**

- Anisa Rasouli, the head of the Afghan Women Judges Association and a former juvenile court judge, was the only female nominated by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to the nine-member bench of Supreme Court of Afghanistan.
- Kerala-based Jewellery retailer T S Kalyanaraman is the richest jeweller in India, according to a report by Wealth-X.
- Former Chief Justice of India Y K Sabharwal passed away at the age of 73.
- Lord Kamlesh Patel becomes first British-Asian appointee to ECB Director
- Ashok Kumar Lahiri, a former Chief Economic Advisor to the Centre, will be the Chairman, while Chandra Shekhar Ghosh will be the MD and CEO of the Bandhan bank of Kolkata.
- Actor Omar Sharif, best known for his title role as Doctor Zhivago in the Oscar-winning film, has died, Egyptian state television said. He was 83.

- Indian-American astronaut Sunita Williams is among four astronauts who have been selected by NASA for commercial flights to the International Space Station (ISS) from US soil.
- Sania Mirza created history by becoming the first female player from the country to win a women's doubles Grand Slam trophy as she clinched the Wimbledon title with Swiss partner Martina Hingis.
- Prince Saud al-Faisal, who has died aged 75, was the world's longest-serving foreign minister, representing the oil rich Gulf state of Saudi Arabia for 40 years, from 1975.
- Lt Gen Man Mohan Singh Rai has been appointed as the next Vice-Chief of the Indian Army.
- M.S. Viswanathan the king of melody has died at the age of 88. The veteran musician had composed music for over a thousand films in Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam and was fondly called as the King of Light Music.
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has appointed the former head of the National Film Archives of India, Prashant Pathrabe, as the new director of the prestigious Film and Television Institute of India (FTII).
- Shubham Jaglan beat Australia's Jeffrey Yu Guan to win the World Junior Golf Championship in San Diego, California.
- Bhanu Pratap Sharma was appointed as Chairperson of FSSAI by an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- Alex Rocco, the US actor best known for his role in crime drama 'The Godfather', has died of cancer aged 79.
- Maurice Obstfeld replaces Olivier Blanchard as International Monetary Fund's new chief economist.
- Tom Moore, the "Archie" cartoonist who brought to life the escapades of the freckled-face, red-haired character, has died in Texas. He was 86.
- EL Doctorow, critically acclaimed author of the novels Ragtime and Billy Bathgate, has died aged 84 in a New York.
- After the removal of R.K. Pachauri, the top decision-making body named Ajay Mathur, as new Director-General of TERI.
- Nobel Prize winner Peter Higgs has joined the ranks of Charles Darwin and Albert Einstein by winning the world's oldest scientific prize, the Royal Society's Copley Medal.
- The board of directors of Catholic Syrian Bank has appointed Anand Krishnamurthy as the new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Syrian Bank.
- High Performance Director Roelant Oltmans has been appointed as coach of the Indian hockey team.
- Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam, country's 11<sup>th</sup> President, Bharat Ratna and far-sighted architect of India's space and missile programmes, passed away. He was 83.
- Ashish Bahuguna has been appointed as the chairman of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- IT secretary RS Sharma has been appointed the new Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) chairman.
- Eminent physicist P. Hariharan died in Berkeley, California. He was 89.
- HIV researcher Dr Suniti Solomon, the first to bring to the world the prevalence of the infection in India in 1986 and one who successfully led research into the treatment of the deadly virus, passed away.

## Awards

- Professor Sanjeev Galande has been chosen for the G.D. Birla Award for Scientific Research for 2014, the K.K. Birla Foundation announced.
- Leading NRI entrepreneur Lord Karan Bilimoria has been awarded as the International Indian of the Year for 2014-15 for his outstanding achievements in the fields of business and education.
- Kerala Tourism has bagged this year's prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award for its Muziris Heritage Project.
- Noted Urdu fiction writer Dr Bisheshar Pradeep, who was awarded with "Urdu Hindi Sahitya Akademi Award" for his work and also won a national level award for his book "Surkh Gulab", passed away.
- Carlos Santana, Marlon James and Naomi Klein are among the winners of the 36<sup>th</sup> annual American Book Awards, which celebrate diversity in publishing.
- Zach Johnson of the United States has won the prestigious British Open Golf title, 2015.
- Pamarthy Shankar, a cartoonist working with the prominent Telugu newspaper 'Sakshi', has won the Grand Prix World Press Cartoon 2014 Award for sketching Nelson Mandela.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented Gargi Parsai with the prestigious Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) award for excellence in Journalism in Agricultural Research and Development-2014.
- The first two laureates Dr. Helena Ndume of Namibia and Jorge Fernando Branco Sampaio of Portugal were awarded with First-ever UN Nelson Mandela Prize.
- Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has bagged the Dun & Bradstreet's 'India's Top PSUs Awards 2015 in the electrical and electronic equipment sector.
- Bengaluru-based concert pianist Neecia Majolly has won the Global Music Award for her debut single Dark Room.
- Darshan Jain, an Indian American teacher is one of the 108 teachers named by President Barack Obama as recipients of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.
- Fazole Hasan Abed who created a Bangladesh-based nonprofit organization credited with helping more than 150 million people out of poverty was named the winner of the 2015 World Food Prize

## Sports

- Grandmaster and former world junior champion Abhijeet Gupta won the Commonwealth Chess Championship.
- Lewis Hamilton won an incident-packed British Grand Prix to claim back-to-back victories on home soil.
- Skipper Mithali Raj became the first from the country and overall second to reach the 5000-run milestone in one-day internationals.
- Serena Williams claimed a sixth Wimbledon title and fourth successive grand slam crown by suppressing the spirited attacking instincts of 20<sup>th</sup>-seeded Spaniard Garbine Muguruza.
- Novak Djokovic won a third Wimbledon title and a ninth Grand Slam after defeating Roger Federer.
- The 34-year-old Swiss Martina Hingis paired with Leander Paes of India has won the mixed doubles title, beating Alexander Peya and Timea Babos 6-1, 6-1 under the roof on Centre Court.
- Youngster Sumit Nagal became sixth Indian who has won a Grand Slam junior title after winning the boys doubles trophy at the Wimbledon championships with partner Nam Hoang Ly.
- The Justice R.M. Lodha Committee on the Indian Premier League (IPL) betting scandal, appointed by the Supreme Court, suspended India Cements Ltd. (ICL) owned by Chennai super kings and Jaipur IPL Cricket Private Ltd. (JIPL) owned by Rajasthan Royals from the League for two years.
- France's Amelie Mauresmo, a two-time Grand Slam winner and former world number one, was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.
- India's ODI skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni is at 9<sup>th</sup> position in London School of Marketing's list of most marketable sports persons in the world.
- The 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games open on 25 July 2015 in Los Angeles, California.

## Miscellaneous

- Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) has become the first State transport corporation to have a vehicle tracking system for inter-city buses.
- Software major Microsoft has agreed to support 'digital villages' in Maharashtra and develop a 'smart MIDC' apart from setting up a cyber-security centre in Pune.
- Indian Coast Guard commissioned 'ICGS Rani Durgavati', the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inshore Patrol Vessel (IPV) of its kind. The IPV designed and built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited.
- For the first time in India, a system to detect earthquakes and disseminate warnings has been installed in Uttarakhand. It will issue warnings 1-40 seconds before earthquakes of magnitude 5 occur.
- The Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA) was launched by Late Former President A P J Abdul Kalam. The primary aim of RAA, is to inculcate a spirit of inquiry, creativity and love for science and mathematics in school children.
- World Population Day was observed on 11 July 2015 with theme Vulnerable Populations in Emergencies.
- NABARD has set a target of providing Rs 30,000 crore as credit to farmers for irrigation over the next three years.
- Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju launched the GPS-Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) system, which will offer seamless navigation to the aviation industry.
- Official air quality data for the first half of this year shows that Delhi indeed face high levels of pollution but Kanpur, Varanasi and Chennai are worse in terms of air pollution.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, the National Skill Development Mission to train 400 million Indians by 2022.
- DoT committee chaired by A.K. Bhargava, tasked with making recommendations on how India should treat net neutrality and regulates the internet, has passed the buck on contentious issues to the telecom regulator, while appearing to support net neutrality.
- Telangana declared 'Bonalu' as the State festival and announced that total expenditure of the 'Bonalu' festivities will be officially borne by the state government.
- Hindustan University was chosen as Best Private University of the Year at a corporate summit organised by All India Technical and Management Council (AITMC).
- Indigenously designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL) Visibility Measuring System, "Drishti" has been installed at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.
- Delhi Metro has launched a smart card recharge facility at ICICI Bank's Business Correspondent Networks (outlets) across the national capital.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the proposal for restructuring the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) project, which is aimed at protecting and conserving the coastal environment.
- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority have clarified that (non-resident Indians (NRIs) can invest in National Pension System (NPS) to get a social security cover.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the government's flagship Deendayal Upadhyaya Rural Electrification Programme on July 25, 2015 in Patna.
- National Broadcasting day was observed on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2015. On this day in 1927, Indian Broadcasting Company began organized radio broadcasting from Bombay station.
- Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of malnourished children in the country with 74.1 per cent of those under the age of five suffering from anaemia and 60 per cent from malnutrition.
- The UNESCO announced that Conakry the capital of Guinea in West Africa will be the World Book Capital for 2017.
- India ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the world in terms of power generation from nuclear sources, according to data published in May 2015 by the Power Reactor Information System (PRIS) of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- Seven Indian companies, including Reliance Industries and Tata Motors, are among the world's 500 largest companies, according to a list compiled by Fortune that has been topped by retail giant Walmart.
- The President has nominated Prof. Richard Hay and Mr. George Baker as members of the Anglo-Indian Community to the Lok Sabha.
- The first loan to be issued by the New Development Bank (NDB) of the five-nation BRICS bloc in April next year would be in Chinese currency Renminbi (RMB).
- The world's first malaria vaccine named Mosquirix, was given the green light by London-based European Medicines Agency.
- World Hepatitis Day, observed on July 28 every year, aims to raise global awareness of hepatitis.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted banking license to Infrastructure financing firm IDFC Ltd for undertaking banking business in the country under Section 22(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- As promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, e-tourist visa facility will be rolled out to Chinese nationals beginning July 30, 2015.
- Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis has inaugurated new Indian Institutes of Management in Nagpur.
- Yakub Memon hanged on birthday July 30 ,a convict of 1993 Mumbai blasts.
- The Karnataka State Assembly passed the Karnataka Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2015.
- Mangalore becomes the First Indian City to Fight Malaria with Software and this is the first time such software is being used by an Urban Local Body in the country to address the incidence of vector borne disease (which is endemic to this region).
- Tata brand retains number 1 position as India's in this year's annual survey. Tata is the world's 65<sup>th</sup> most valuable brand.
- The Solar Impulse 2 is the first aircraft to fly day and night without any fuel. Pilot of solar impulse 2 Andre Borschberg's 120-hour voyage shattered the 76-hour record for nonstop flight by late Steve Fossett in 2006.

- In the heaviest ever commercial mission undertaken by ISRO and its commercial arm Antrix, the country's workhorse the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) will put in orbit five foreign satellites from the spaceport of Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- In the heaviest commercial launch since its inception, the Indian Space Research Organisation's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) launched five satellites, weighing 1,440 kg for a United Kingdom-based company.
- The Indian Navy has deployed the INS Teg, a stealth frigate, in the South Indian Ocean with an aim to provide surveillance support in the region.
- NASA's Kepler mission has confirmed the first near-Earth-size planet, Kepler-452b, in the "habitable zone" around a Sun-like star.
- NASA discovers closest super earth like structure HD 219134b and it is larger than Earth.
- Krishnapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh has received the Golden Peacock environment management award for its initiatives and achievements in the field of environment.

## **August**

### **National**

- In August 2015, the naval harbour in Kochi has become the first in the country to get a top-notch defence system, the Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence and Surveillance System (IUHDSS) .
- India ranks 14<sup>th</sup> among 22 high TB burden countries globally according to the WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2014.
- The Maharashtra government has selected Mumbai, Nagpur and Aurangabad among 10 other cities in the state under the 'Smart City' project in August 2015.
- In August 2015, Lt Gen MMS Rai took over as the Vice Chief of Army Staff while Lt Gen Praveen Bakshi, who is tipped to be the next army chief, replaced the former as the new General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command in Kolkata.
- In August 2015, "Akbar", one of the oldest steam locomotives of railways, will haul a heritage train from Safdarjung and Old Delhi stations this month to commemorate 150 years of train services in the Delhi region.
- The ninth edition of the biennial defence trade exhibition, Defexpo India 2016, will take place in Goa in February. The last eight editions had taken place in Delhi.
- In August 2015, The Archaeological Survey of India has documented 732 unprotected monuments across the country, Karnataka topped the list with 177 unprotected monuments and archaeological sites, it was followed by Tamil Nadu with 72 and Madhya Pradesh 62.
- On August 21, India hosted the heads of 14 island nations at the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC), in what is seen as a first step towards greater engagement with the region. The upcoming summit in Jaipur is expected to pave the way for agreements in agriculture, food processing, fisheries, solar energy, e-networks for coordination in telemedicine and tele-education, space cooperation and climate change.
- The Kerala State government has nominated Kochi City Corporation as its choice from among the five municipal corporations for the 100 Smart Cities programme of the Union Ministry for Urban Development 7. In August 2015.
- In August 2015 IIT Palakkad, Kerala's first IIT and India's 18<sup>th</sup> Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) opened with 117 students at Palakkad.
- In August 2015 According to new census data, Chandigarh and Delhi have the highest proportion of graduates followed by Maharashtra among the big States, while Bihar and Assam are worst off among the big States.
- Udaipur Solar Observatory has operationalized nation's first biggest telescope 'Multi Application Solar Telescope' (MAST) for detailed study of solar activities in August 2015.
- In August 2015, Rural Development Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh launched SAMANVAY, a compilation of all schemes of both Central and State governments for Gram Panchayats.
- In August 2015, As part of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), the Union Urban Development Ministry announcing the release of Rs. 120 crore to the States and Union Territories.
- In August 2015, Lok Sabha passed the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2014 aims to prohibit the commission of offences against members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs and STs).

- In August 2015, The 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN foreign ministers' meet opened in Malaysia, drawing representatives from 10 Southeast Asian countries.
- In August 2015, ISRO's commercial venture Antrix Corporation recently signed contracts with United States to launch nine micro and nano spacecraft separately as small co-passengers on the PSLV light-lifter during this year.
- In August 2015, The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to sign an agreement with UNESCO for establishment of a Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia-Pacific region at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in Dehradun.
- In August 2015, the Union Cabinet has given an 'in principle' approval for hiving off mobile tower assets of BSNL into a separate company, which will help the state-run firm to improve its financial position by unlocking the value of its mobile towers.
- ISRO and NASA are jointly working on the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission to co-develop and launch a dual frequency synthetic aperture radar satellite in August 2015.
- The Tirupati laddu, given away as 'prasad' at the hill shrine of Lord Venkateswara at Tirupati, has entered its 300<sup>th</sup> year. It was introduced on August 2, 1715.
- The Government of India has decided allow Aadhaar enrolment of NRIs, PIOs and Overseas Citizens of India.
- Mumbai is setting the northern part of the Thane Creek as a wildlife sanctuary in August 2015 .
- The NITI Aayog has started an initiative called NIYATAM to work with states to prune their administrative structure to improve their efficiency and governance.
- In August 2015, Mysuru has topped the Swachh Bharat rankings among 476 cities in the country. Bengaluru leads the list of capitals at 7<sup>th</sup> rank while Patna came at the bottom at 429<sup>th</sup>.
- In August 2015, Union Minority Affairs Minister Dr. Najma Heptullah has launched 'Nai Manzil' scheme in Bihar to provide trade-based skill training in manufacturing, engineering, services and soft skills to minorities.
- in August 2015 , Government Launches "Suraksha Bandhan" Drive through Participating Banks and Insurance Companies to Facilitate Enrolment under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) through the Jeevan Suraksha Gift Cheques.
- In August 2015, the Kerala government has accepted the invitation extended by WTCF to Kochi to be a member of the World Tourism Cities Federation (WTCF) Council .
- In August 2015 ,The Rajasthan High Court declared the practice of 'Santhara' or 'Sullekhana' within the Jain community as illegal. Santhara means a fast unto death.
- The Government has launched the "School Nursery Yojana", an initiative to bring students closer to nature, by involving them in raising of saplings in nurseries created in schools in August 2015.
- According to Union Government the Seventh Pay Commission award will result in a 15.79 per cent rise in the salary outgo during 2016-17.
- Madhya Pradesh has decided to form a Special Indian Reserve Battalion (SIRB), a force that can be deployed across the country for maintaining law and order and fighting naxalism in August 2015 .
- The Ministry for New and Renewable Energy has sanctioned a 1,500-MW ultra mega solar power park for development in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh in August 2015.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav marked Independence Day on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 by launching the official Twitter account of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Taj Mahal.
- Amitabh Bachchan, Deepika Padukone's 'Piku' wins best movie at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne for 2015 in August 2015.
- Chief Minister Oommen Chandy on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 declared Kerala as the 'complete digital state'.
- Telangana's Chief Minister K. Chandrabab Naidu on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 launched another flagship programme of his government, Grama Jyothi, at Gangadevipalli in the district.
- The Adani Group on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the state government in Congress-ruled Kerala to build and operate the Vizhinjam International Seaport, the eighth such project undertaken by the conglomerate.
- In August 2015, the Supreme Court order on the use of Aadhaar card only for the direct benefit transfer (DBT) and public distribution scheme (PDS) is set to provide a boost to these programmes, with the government planning to speed up implementation of cash transfers for food grain subsidy nationwide.



- In August 2015, the Taj Mahal has made it to the top five of a prestigious new list of the world's best tourist attractions.
- Chief Minister Jayalalithaa of Tamil Nadu, on 15<sup>th</sup> August, presented the first APJ Abdul Kalam award to ISRO scientist N. Valarmathi.
- In August 2015, Modi announces welfare fund and e-migrant portal (MADAD) for expats.
- The Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) has become the first airport in the country to be fully powered by solar power in August 2015.
- The Union tourism ministry will be conferring the title of 'twin national heritage cities' to the temple towns of Rishikesh and Haridwar.
- Dr. Najma Heptulla, the Union Minister for Minority Affairs Launched Online Application Management System (OAMS) for Nai Roshni in August 2015.
- As a tribute to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 71<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary, Himachal Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh on 21<sup>st</sup> August has launched 'RISHTA' an efficient smart street lighting project at Shimla which makes Himachal Pradesh the first State in North India to do so.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that India will host the global 'CALL TO ACTION SUMMIT 2015 – ending preventable child and maternal deaths', on August 27 – 28, 2015, in New Delhi.
- The government of Kerala has launched Paperless Ration shop Initiative for the common people.
- The government has approved a proposed master plan to develop 50 solar cities, for which master plans have been prepared for 46, on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2015.
- To strengthen security on trains, Indian Railways is expediting the process of installing CCTV surveillance cameras in 20,000 coaches at a cost of Rs 700 crore, which will be derived from Nirbhaya fund in August 2015.
- In August 2015, Gujarat is going to become the first state in the country to launch 'agro-solar policy' to encourage the farmers to tap the solar energy.
- The project is named - Rewa Ultra Mega Solar and is a joint venture of Solar Energy Corporation of India and Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam, with both parties have 50% stake in August 2015.
- The Delhi government on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2015 ordered implementation of 25 per cent reservation for poor children in play schools and creches, which are running on land allotted at concessional rates by the government.
- The birth centenary celebrations of Rani Gaidinliu, a legendary freedom fighter from Nagaland was celebrated on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.
- The latest census data on the population of religious groups, released by the Modi government on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, shows a 0.7 percent decline in the Hindu population, while a growth of 0.8 percent has been registered in the Muslim community.
- In August 2015, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, and Minister of Law and Justice launched the government's latest health and IT initiative called Social Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine (SEHAT) at the India Habitat Centre in Delhi.
- The state cabinet headed by Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 approved the Aarogya Rajasthan programme and a drive to collect health information of citizens to build an online database.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, approved amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Bill, 2015.
- In August 2015, Maharashtra government has bought a house in London where iconic social reformer B R Ambedkar lived during his days as a student at the London School of Economics in the 1920s.
- In August 2015, The union government released the list of 98 cities that will be developed under the Smart Cities mission.
- The ceremonial handing over of the former Indian Coast Guard Ship Varaha, which had been in service with Sri Lanka Navy as Sri Lanka Naval Ship Sagara since 2006, took place at the port of Colombo on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, in keeping with naval customs and traditions.
- The Law Commission of India, on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015 submitted its Report No.259 titled "Early Childhood Development and Legal Entitlements" to the Union Minister of Law and Justice.
- The Manipur government has handed over 336.93 acres of land to the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for building a National Sports University in the state in August 2015.

- The Tripura and Mizoram governments have almost computerised their Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to implement the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in August 2015.
- In August 2015, India has lost the case against the US at WTO as the body ruled that India's domestic content requirements under its solar power programme were inconsistent with the international norms.
- The Union Cabinet on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 approved a 6 per cent hike in dearness allowance (DA) of central employees and pensioner.

### **International**

- In August 2015, According to United Nation International Children Education Fund (UNICEF), more than 70,000 Liberian babies were born without being registered.
- In August 2015, China has set up the world's largest mosquito factory in northwestern Guangzhou province to tackle dengue fever by releasing one million sterilised mosquitoes every week in a bid to dilute their population with insects that don't carry the disease.
- In seven years, India will surpass China to become the world's most populous country and will have 1.7 billion residents by 2050, new projections from the United Nations show.
- In August 2015, The 193 member states of UN finalized the draft outcome document titled "Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" that is due to be ratified at the New York Climate Summit next month.
- In August 2015, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, known as CERN, has formally conferred its associate membership on Pakistan. Pakistan can now participate in the governance of CERN and bid for CERN contracts.
- In August 2015, Singapore celebrated the state's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its independence from Malaysia in 1965.
- Turkmenistan's state-owned company TurkmenGaz will lead the consortium for the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) natural gas pipeline, with a majority investment in August 2015.
- Sri Lanka flocked to the polls on 18<sup>th</sup> August for its 2015 parliamentary elections, where Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's alliance emerged as the single largest group.
- Bangladesh has become the first country to receive funds from UN for its fast growing solar home systems in August, 2015.
- In August 2015, Pakistan and Russia signed a landmark defence deal that includes the sale of four Mi-35 'Hind E' attack helicopters to Pakistan.
- For the first time in the history of Saudi Arabia, women have finally been allowed to participate in elections and cast their vote in August, 2015.
- China on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2015, many world leaders and over 10 foreign military forces will participate in its huge WWII memorial parade on September 3 to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory of China's resistance against Japan.
- Australia has agreed to include Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in the BRIDGE programme run by Australian Schools in collaboration with Indian Schools in August 2015 .
- The United Kingdom will fund a capacity building programme for making Kolkata a low carbon city in August 2015.
- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Kazakhstan signed an agreement on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, to locate the first internationally-controlled bank of low-enriched uranium in the ex-Soviet nation to ensure fuel supplies for power stations and prevent nuclear proliferation.
- The United States on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 has extended the anti-dumping duty on Indian preserved mushrooms for another five years. The move would impact domestic exporters as the US is a major export destination for India.

### **Contemporary Economic Developments**

- In August 2015, the Life Insurance Council has got its first executive committee with nine members. LIC chairman S K Roy will become the chairperson of the committee.
- In August 2015, Paytm acquired the title sponsorship rights for India's domestic and international cricket matches at home for a period of four years.
- In August 2015, Kotak Mahindra Bank launched a mobile banking app 'Kotak Bharat' which requires no internet connectivity.
- In August 2015, HDFC Bank has launched 'Dhanchayat', an educational film to raise awareness on the dangers of borrowing money from unorganised sources. This film has been launched under the aegis of Swachh Banking, the bank's corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative.

- Google will make paid apps available for as low as Rs.10 through its app store, Google Play to help expand the paid apps user base in India.
- In August 2015 Japanese conglomerate SoftBank has picked online aggregator of budget hotels OYO Rooms for its latest investment in India, by leading a Rs 630-crore (\$100-million) funding round in the Gurgaon-based company.
- In August 2015, HDFC Bank and online marketplace Snapdeal has jointly launched co branded e-commerce credit card.
- IDFC Bank will kick-start its lending operations from October 1, 2015. RBI had granted license to IDFC Bank on July 23, 2015.
- In August 2015, The International Labour Organisation (ILO) and FICCI signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to impart training to MSMEs to make them competitive and boost productivity.
- In August 2015, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notified that banks can shift, merge or close urban and semi-urban branches without its approval.
- In August 2015, the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has commenced investing into Indian stock markets, has chosen two index-linked exchange traded fund schemes, SBI Nifty ETF and SBI Sensex ETF to invest its funds.
- In August 2015, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has emerged as the market leader in Bahrain and third largest player in the UAE as a part of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) entered into two unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with two Multi-National Companies in August 2015.
- In August 2015, Bharti Airtel has announced the commercial launch of 4G services in 296 towns across India. The telecom company launched first 4G networks in India in Kolkata in April 2012.
- Till August 2015, As per official figures, India has received an impressive \$ 24 billion in Foreign Direct Investment from the 28-nation bloc European Union over the last three years.
- Business at India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City in Gandhinagar is set to kick-start within two months. As many as five banks are expected to start their international banking units (IBUs) in the IFSC.
- The indigenous Titanium Sponge Plant at Chavara in Kerala has been fully commissioned and has started commercial production required for space applications in August 2015. India has become the seventh country in the world producing Titanium sponge commercially.
- In August 2015, ICICI Bank introduced a new product "ICICI Bank Saral-Rural Housing Loan" under which applicants from rural areas including women borrowers as well as seekers from weaker sections can now avail home loans at the ICICI Bank Base Rate.
- In August 2015, To promote eco tourism, especially tiger tourism in Maharashtra, Amitabh Bachchan will represent the state as its tiger ambassador.
- The UK is among 36 new countries to be added to India's electronic visa system from Independence Day, taking the number of nations on the list to 113.
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been accredited by the Green Climate Fund as an implementing entity for undertaking climate change related projects in India.
- In August 2015, the union cabinet has approved signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between India and Nepal for constructing a petroleum products pipeline from Raxaul in India to Amlekhgunj in Nepal.
- Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), owned by Tata Motors, signed a letter of intent with the government of the Slovak Republic for the potential development of a new manufacturing plant in the city of Nitra in western Slovakia in August 2015.
- In August 2015, The government has increased the import duty on base metal items made of iron, steel, copper, nickel and aluminum by 2.5 percentage points.
- Wipro chairman Azim Premji and HCL founder Shiv Nadar are the only two Indian tycoons in the top 20 richest people in the world of technology.
- In August, 2015, the "Pahal" scheme has been acknowledged by the Guinness Book of World Records for being the largest cash transfer program (households).
- In August, 2015, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) has allowed banks to tie up with a maximum of nine insurers from three segments —life, non-life and standalone health insurers — as part of the new bancassurance guidelines.

- Microsoft will be working with Andhra Pradesh Government on TV White Spaces Project— a technology that uses unused TV spectrum to deliver low-cost Internet connectivity to users.
- In August, 2015, Axis bank launched first contactless multi-currency forex cards in partnership with Visa -the payments gateway company.
- Finance minister Arun Jaitley on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, launched a seven pronged plan-- Indradhanush--to revamp functioning of public sector banks.
- Taking the first step towards a holding company structure for public sector banks (PSBs), the government on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 announced the setting up of a Banks Board Bureau (BBB).
- To rapidly expand its portfolio and reach, property portal Housing.com has acquired HomeBuy360 (HB360), a cloud-based sales lifecycle management platform that connects developers, agents and buyers, for \$2 million. This is the second acquisition made by the company in 2015, after it bought Indian Real Estate Forum (IREF).
- In August, 2015, Hero Cycles, the world's largest cycle manufacturer by volume, announced its acquisition of majority stake in the UK-based cycle distributor, Avocet Sports Limited, to mark its entry into the high-value cycle market in Europe.
- The Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on 18<sup>th</sup> August, inaugurated the India Aspiration Fund and SIDBI 'Make in India' Loan for Enterprises (SMILE) of SIDBI.
- ICICI Bank launched the first of its kind fully automated digital locker, which would be available to customers even on weekends and post banking hours.
- In August, 2015, State Bank of India launched SBI Foundation, which will be the implementing agency for corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities of the lender.
- In August, 2015, Reserve Bank of India suspends licences of Religare Finance, 6 Other NBFCs.
- Paving the way for revolutionizing cashless payments services in the country, the Reserve Bank of India on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 granted payment bank licences to 11 firms.
- State-run Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have launched its maiden ULIP (unit-linked insurance plan) product across the country on 19<sup>th</sup> August.
- The much-anticipated merger of the Forward Markets Commission with SEBI is set to get formalised from September 28, 2015.
- Google Inc. launched a Wi-Fi router on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, the latest move in the company's efforts to get ready for the connected home and draw more users to its services.
- Making its maiden investment outside India, Tata Opportunities Fund (TOF) has put money in US-based taxi hailing app Uber Technologies.
- The government has a launched a website, in August, 2015, vidyalakshmi.co.in, for students seeking educational loans.
- In August, 2015, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Sun Pharma Industries are the three Indian companies that have been named among the world's 100 most innovative companies by Forbes in a list that has been topped by Tesla Motors.
- Chiefs of all public sector banks, other than five large ones, will come from within the talent pool of state-owned lenders, according to the new selection guidelines issued by the government on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.
- The Union Government on 21<sup>st</sup>, August, 2015 announced that it will sell a 10 per cent stake in Indian Oil Corporation on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 on the stock market through an offer for sale (OFS).
- The Rajasthan government on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2015, entered into an agreement with Future Consumer Enterprise Ltd. (FCEL) to modernise the public distribution system (PDS).
- In August, 2015, A Reserve Bank of India panel has recommended conversion of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs), which have revenue of more than Rs 20,000 crores into regular banks.
- Stressing the need to reach insurance products to each and every Indian, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) Chairman, T.S. Vijayan on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2015 asked insurance companies to distribute easy to understand and easily claimed products.
- The AP Shah committee on minimum alternate tax (MAT) has recommended to the finance ministry that the levy shouldn't be imposed for the period preceding April 1, 2015.

- In August, 2015, India's premier Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) has now roped in yoga guru Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurveda Limited to manufacture and market in the country and abroad some herbal supplements and food products developed by it.
- Search engine giant Google has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the government of Haryana to promote digital literacy in the state in August, 2015.
- India gets its first private bank in 11 years with Finance Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurating Bandhan Bank as a full-fledged scheduled commercial bank on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2015, ushering in a new era in country's financial sector, which will now see innovation taking the Centre stage to reach out to the unbanked population.
- Largest private lender ICICI Bank on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, launched the country's first mortgage guarantee-backed home loan product that will expand the credit amount and increase the tenure for an additional fee as well.
- The Government of India on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, launched an e-payment module, with an objective to make the payment of compensatory levies receivable in lieu of diversion of forest land quicker and more transparent.
- The government of India on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, approved six new proposals, including four from IT and ITeS sector, for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs).
- In August 2015 State-owned NTPC, India's largest power generator, has achieved a record highest single-day electricity generation of 733.12 million units.
- Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 has launched a mobile app named "flyDEL" that aims to augment the passenger experience at the airport.
- Indian Bank customers can operate their banking accounts anytime and anywhere using the recently launched IndPay mobile app.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and its partners will invest about \$24 billion in producing natural gas from a field off Mozambique and converting it into LNG for export to consumers like India.
- The Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 will launch SAHAJ online LPG connections to give more convenience to new LPG consumers.

### **Newsmakers (Personalities)**

- In August 2015, Ganga Ram Agarwal, a senior railway official, has been appointed as the new Secretary of Railway Board.
- In August 2015, Rakesh Sharma took over as the new Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand.
- In August 2015, Arun Goel has taken over as the new vice chairman of the Delhi Development Authority.
- Mercedes-Benz has appointed Roland S Folger as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of its India operations in August 2015.
- In August 2015, Bharti Airtel, the world's third largest mobile service provider has appointed Nilanjan Roy as its global Chief Financial Officer and Rajiv Mathrani as Chief Brand Officer for its India Operations.
- Anand Krishnamurthy has been appointed as managing director & CEO of the Catholic Syrian Bank Limited in August 2015.
- Global technology and consultancy giant Accenture has appointed Rekha M Menon as chairman of its India operations in August 2015.
- Ram Nath Kovind and educationist Acharya Dev Vrat were appointed as governors of Bihar and Himachal Pradesh, respectively in August 2015.
- India-born Sundar Pichai has been named CEO of Google by the company's founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin in August 2015.
- Acharya Dev Vrat has sworn in as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh in August 2015.
- The President has appointed Shri Om Prakash Rawat, as the Election Commissioner in the Election Commission in August 2015.
- In August 2015, The founder of Hero Cycle Om Prakash Munjal passes away.
- Kishor Piraji Kharat took charge as managing director & chief executive officer of IDBI Bank Ltd on 14 August.
- In August 2015, An Indian Railway Service officer of 1980 batch, Ashwani Lohani will succeed Rohit Nandan as new Air India chief.
- Veteran actor Anupam Kher has been appointed as the UN ambassador of the 'HeForShe' campaign for gender equality.

- Girish Sahni has assumed charge as the next Director-General of the Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary, Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Ministry of Science & Technology, with effect from August 24, 2015.
- World No. 1 tennis player Novak Djokovic on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, appointed UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador.
- In August 2015, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Rana Kapoor, aged 58, as MD and CEO for a term of three years at YES Bank.
- In August 2015, Dairy major Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, which sells milk products under the Amul brand, re-elected Jethabhai Patel as its chairman.

### Awards

- The Ramanujan Prize for 2015 has been won by mathematician Amalendu Krishna of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai in August 2015.
- In August 2015, The Election Commission is to honor the Former Jalore Electoral Officer Rajan Vishal with the Best Electoral Practices Award-2014.
- The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has won the Esri Special Achievement in GIS Award 2015 for exemplary work in Dairy Geographical Information System.
- Expert weaver V. Sundararajan was presented with the Sant Kabir award by the Prime Minister for his contribution to the revival of the world famous Kancheepuram silk saree in August 2015 .
- Goa Tourism Minister Dilip Parulekar has been awarded with the PATWA - Safari India South Asia Travel Award for the year 2015 in August 2015. Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA) is an affiliate of United Nations WTO.
- Indian sociobiologist Raghavendra Gadagkar was awarded Germany's highest civilian honour the Cross of Order of the Merit for his contribution in the field of behavioral ecology and sociobiology in August 2015.
- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented the 24<sup>th</sup> Saraswati Sammaan for the year 2014 to Dr. M Veerappa Moily in August 2015, for his Epic 'Sri Ramayana Mahanveshanam' written in Kannada.
- Historian Balwant Moreshwar Purandare was on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 conferred with the 'Maharashtra Bhushan' award, the state's highest honour.
- Noted Indian agricultural scientist Modadugu Vijay Gupta will receive the first Sunhak Peace Prize in South Korean Capital Seoul on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.
- Indian conservationist and activist Rajendra Singh, known as the "Waterman of India," received the Stockholm Water Prize in recognition of his efforts toward water restoration efforts and improving water security in rural India on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
- Indo-Tibetan Border Police official and mountaineer Jot Singh has been honoured with the Tenzing Norgay national adventure award by President Pranab Mukherjee on 30<sup>th</sup> August.
- Indian whistle-blower bureaucrat Sanjiv Chaturvedi, on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2015 conferred with the Ramon Magsaysay Award.

### Sports

- In August 2015, Union Sports Minister Sarbananda Sonowal gave away the Arjuna Award to off-spinner R. Ashwin of Indian cricket team.
- In August 2015, Beijing narrowly won an IOC vote for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games beating Almaty in Kazakhstan to become the first city to be awarded the summer and winter Games.
- In August 2015, South Sudan became the 206<sup>th</sup> Olympic member four years after independence, allowing the war-ravaged African nation to take part in the Rio Games next year.
- In August 2015, Pankaj Advani clinched his 13<sup>th</sup> world title after winning the World 6-Red snooker championship.
- In August 2015, Veteran coaches Swatantra Raj Singh (boxing), Nihar Ameen (swimming) and Harbans Singh (athletics) were among the five coaches recommended for the prestigious Dronacharya Award this year.
- The 2015 Hockey World League (HWL) Final will be held in Raipur from November 27 to December 6, 2015.
- Athletics Federation of India President Adille Sumariwalla was on 19<sup>th</sup> August elected as one of the members of the prestigious Council of the IAAF, the global governing body of the sport.
- Former Olympic 1500m champion Lord Coe is the new president of the IAAF, the body that governs world athletics.
- In August 2015, India's Aditi Chauhan has become the country's first woman to play English league football.

- In August 2015, India's Aditi Ashok made history when she became the first from the country to win the Ladies British Amateur stroke play golf championship at the Moortown Golf Club.
- Usain Bolt overcame the doubters and the form book to beat controversial rival Justin Gatlin to 100m gold at the World Athletics Championships in Beijing on 23<sup>rd</sup>, August, 2015.
- Roger Federer beat world number one Novak Djokovic to win his seventh Cincinnati Masters title on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2015.
- In Pro Kabaddi League 2015 U Mumba crowned champions after thrilling win over Bengaluru Bulls in final.
- Indian women hockey team qualifies for Olympics after 36 years.

## **September**

### **National**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa has launched the 'Amma Baby Care Kit' scheme on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2015, wherein the government will provide accessories meant for the newborn and its mother.
- The Jharkhand cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 gave its approval to the formation of an Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in the state.
- Rajasthan became the first state in the country to submit its annual action plan under the newly launched Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) targeting universal coverage in respect of water supply connections and sewerage connections to all urban households in the state.
- The Central Government on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 announced the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY).
- The Madhya Pradesh government has launched M-Shiksha-Mitra mobile app to provide various services and teaching-related work to teachers in simple and easy way.
- Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched Mega Credit Campaigns under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

### **International**

- The United Nations General Assembly on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 overwhelmingly approved a Palestinian resolution that will allow Palestine to fly its flag at UN headquarters.
- Cow, which is sacred to Hindus, has been declared the national animal of Nepal in the country's newly-unveiled secular constitution.
- The 193-member General Assembly adopted the new framework, "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", composed of 17 goals and 169 targets to wipe out poverty, fight inequality and tackle climate change over the next 15 years.

### **Contemporary Economic Developments**

- The union government has released Rs 2,000 crore to the Employees' Pension Scheme as its contribution for the year 2015-16, Minister of State for Labour and Employment Bandaru Dattatreya on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2015.
- Food safety regulator FSSAI on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2015, came up with draft quality standard norms for various dairy products, including flavored milk, ice-cream, yoghurt, among others.
- India's largest bank State Bank of India (SBI) and the largest private sector bank ICICI Bank have been designated as domestic systemically important banks (D-SIB) on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2015.
- India's leading stock exchange NSE has launched Nivesh India program across India to connect with investors on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2015.
- The Union Cabinet on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015 gave its approval to the Marginal Fields Policy (MFP) for the development of hydrocarbon discoveries made by national oil companies ONGC and OIL.
- India has joined the UN-based 'Better than Cash Alliance', which promotes transition from cash to digital payments to reduce poverty and drive inclusive growth.
- Government on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015, notified the merger of commodities market regulator Forward Markets Commission with Securities and Exchange Board of India with effect from 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.
- ICICI Lombard General Insurance has tied up with Catholic Syrian Bank (CSB) on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2015 for sale of its products through 431 branches of the bank.
- Sri Lanka Central Bank has received 1.1 billion dollars from the Reserve Bank of India under the currency swap agreement between the two reserve banks.

- Doha Bank on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 has tied up with Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group to generate business opportunities in the Gulf Cooperation Council nations and India.
- The Cabinet on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 permitted 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) under the automatic route for white label ATM operations.
- Telecom service provider Uninor on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2015 announced it has rebranded itself as Telenor in India.
- The government has firmed up plans to bring down its holding in IDBI Bank 49 per cent, marking a big bang start to its commitment to reform state-run banks.
- The Government of India signed a loan with Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 for US \$ 123.51 million for tranche 3 of the Infrastructure Development Investment Program for Tourism to continue upgrading tourism infrastructure and services in Punjab, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.
- Over 60-year-old commodities regulatory body FMC and the younger but much bigger capital markets watchdog SEBI have been formally merged by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

### **Newsmakers (Personalities)**

- Senior IAS officer Raghav Chandra has taken over as the Chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2015.
- Ratan P Watal appointed as new Finance Secretary on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2015.
- Anjaly Chib Duggal, a Punjab cadre IAS officer, has assumed charge as Secretary in the Department of Financial Services in the Finance Ministry.
- Dinesh Kumar Likhi has been appointed as Chairman & Managing Director of Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited.
- Anirban Lahiri becomes 1<sup>st</sup> Indian ace golfer to qualify for President's Cup team.
- PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi is the sole Indian-origin executive in Fortune's list of 50 most powerful women in business, which has been topped by General Motors CEO Mary Barra.
- Indian-origin British MP Seema Malhotra has been appointed as the shadow chief secretary on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 for Treasury by the newly elected Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.
- Mukesh Ambani remains India's richest person for the ninth consecutive year with a net worth of USD 18.9 billion, according to the latest Forbes India Rich List.
- Stuti Narain Kacker has been appointed as the new chief of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2015.
- Baseball legend Yogi Berra, whose humorous quotes made him one of America's most beloved sports icons, has died at the age of 90.
- Lalita Prasada Sripada Srisai, a class IX student from Damanjodi in Koraput district in Odisha won the 'Community Impact Award' at the prestigious Google Science Fair in California on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2015.
- West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi was on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2015 given additional charge of Tripura Governor due to absence on leave of Tathagata Roy.
- Leftist leader Alexis Tsipras was sworn in as prime minister of Greece.
- Swami Dayananda Saraswati passed away at his ashram in Rishikesh on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2015.
- Matthias Müller (62) has been appointed CEO of Volkswagen AG with immediate effect.
- India's most successful cueist Pankaj Advani added another feather to his cap by winning the IBSF World Billiards Championship by outplaying his opponent in the final to take his world title count to 14 on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.
- Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton pulled off an aggressive passing move on teammate Nico Rosberg and went on to win the Japanese Grand Prix on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2015, moving a step closer to claiming his second straight Formula One title.
- V Shanmuganathan, the Governor of Meghalaya, has been given an additional charge of Manipur after the demise of incumbent Syed Ahmed Khan.

### **Awards**

- India has won the top UNESCO prize 'Award of Excellence' 2015 for the remarkable conservation efforts of the majestic Sree Vadakkunnathan Temple in Kerala, the UN body announced 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2015.
- President Pranab Mukherjee on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 presented the Gandhi Peace Prize for 2014 to Indian space agency ISRO.



- Muziris Heritage Project of Kerala Tourism has bagged the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) gold award for 2015 under the heritage category.
- Veteran actor Anupam Kher on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 has been presented with the “Honoured Guest” award by the U.S. state of Texas.
- Afghan refugee teacher Aqeela Asifi, has won the 2015 UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) Nansen Refugee Award.
- Veteran Test cricket left-hander Shiv Chanderpaul has been honoured with the Icon Award by the Indo-Caribbean Alliance.
- The EPFO was awarded two SKOCH Order-of-Merits, one for launching the UAN for EPFO members and another for transformation of Social Security Agenda in India.
- The most prestigious science book prize in Britain has been won by a solo female writer Gaia Vince for the first time in its 28-year history.
- Swetha Prabakaran, a 15-year-old Indian-American girl has been honoured by the White House with the prestigious “Champions of Change” award for empowering the community by imparting Internet coding through her non-profit organisation.

### **Sports**

- Indian boxer Vikas Krishan has clinched silver medal in the Asian Championships.
- Australia's veteran all-rounder Shane Watson announced his retirement from Test cricket on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.
- Weightlifter Deepak Lather won gold in Youth Commonwealth Games in September, 2015.
- Leander Paes and his Swiss partner Martina Hingis have won the Mixed Doubles trophy of season's Final Grand Slam, the US Open, 2015.
- Virat Kohli became the co-owner of International Premier Tennis League (IPTL) franchise, UAE Royals, on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2015. UAE Royals will be led by Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer.
- Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis won the Guangzhou Open title on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.
- Gurpreet Singh and Jitu Rai clinched the silver and bronze respectively for India in men's 10m air pistol event at the 8<sup>th</sup> Asian Air Gun Championship on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2015 released digital recordings of epic Ramcharitmanas, produced by All India Radio.
- Government accepts Justice AP Shah Committee report on MAT on Foreign Institutional Investors on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2015.
- India has emerged as the 8<sup>th</sup> largest tourism market for Australia with over 2 lakh Indians visiting the country in 2014, spending a record of 1 billion dollars.
- Durban will be the first African city to host the Commonwealth Games for 2022.
- The West-Central Railway has become the first railway zone to eliminate all unmanned level crossings from its region.
- The Odisha government has named the wheeler island, the missile launching station of the Defence and Research Development Organisation in the Bay of Bengal close to Dharma coast in the state after former President Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.
- Andhra Pradesh government is rechristening the AP State Enterprise Architecture (APSEA) as 'e-Pragati'.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister Arun Jaitley on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2015, launched the e-version of the 100 volumes of the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi in New Delhi.
- The 21<sup>st</sup> International Day for the preservation of the Ozone layer was celebrated on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.
- Marathi film 'Court' on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2015 was selected as India's official entry for the Oscars.
- World Rhino Day is celebrated worldwide on September 22 and aims to increase awareness of the plight of rhino poaching and to encourage rhino conservation.
- Astrosat, India's first dedicated space observatory, was launched on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 at 10 am from the spaceport of Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- World Heart Day is celebrated on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

- Defence minister Manohar Parikkar commissioned INS Vajrakosh, the latest establishment of the Indian Navy in Karwar on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> September, the Black Mamba Anti-Poaching Unit has been named as one of the winners of the top United Nations environmental prize.

## **October**

### **National**

- India is set to be the G20 Chair in 2018.
- The Andhra Pradesh state government had set a deadline to complete the seed capital by December 2018. There were also plans to shift the government machinery to the new region before 2019.
- Delhi Metro has been ranked first in “information during travel”, according to an international survey of Metro systems conducted by Railway and Transport Strategic Centre (RTSC) in October.
- In October 2015, in order to ease the process of marriage registration under the Hindu Marriage Act and to make it transparent, Uttar Pradesh has started a pilot project in Barabanki district to register marriages online.
- On the first anniversary of Swachh Bharat Mission on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2015 Union Government planned to generate electricity and compost from municipal solid waste.
- Gujarat Government has launched a special Khadi Utsav in Ahmedabad to promote khadi on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 146<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2015.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated a state police-citizen portal in October 2015.
- To fasten payment of crop insurance claims to farmers, the Centre launched a pilot programme Kisan in October 2015.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation established the world's highest terrestrial centre at 17,600 feet above sea level at Changla near Pengong lake in Ladakh in October 2015.
- The Indian Navy commissioned the first indigenously-designed and built torpedo launch and recovery vessel INS Astradharini in October 2015.
- In October 2015, Union government gave nod to build National War Memorial and Museum near India Gate in order to pay tribute to Indian soldiers who have sacrificed their lives for the country post-independence.
- Cabinet has given nod to three new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal in October 2015.
- Government approved the formation of the Indian Skill Development Service (ISDS) in October 2015.
- India's first community reserve to protect the endangered Gangetic river dolphins is to set -up in West Bengal.
- The Kerala government has launched a programme titled as “Operation Valsalya”, to trace, rescue and reunite the little ones with their family in October 2015.
- High-risk area boundary of maritime Piracy has been shifted from 78 degrees east to the 65 degrees East longitude off India's western coastline in October 2015.
- Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje released the state's first start-up policy in October 2015.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 laid the foundation stone for Rs. 7,900-crore fourth terminal at country's largest container port Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) situated off the Mumbai eastern seafront.
- The third India-Sri Lanka Joint Training Exercise ‘Mitra Shakti-2015’ culminated on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2015, at Aundh Military Camp, Pune.
- INS Trikanth entered the Egyptian Safage port on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 for a three-day visit to underscore India's peaceful presence in the region and show solidarity with friendly countries.
- National Mission for a Green India (GIM) falling under the Environment Ministry has approved annual plans for Kerala, Mizoram, Manipur and Jharkhand in October 2015.

### **International**

- Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas raised the Palestinian flag at the United Nations for the first time on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.
- German chancellor Angela Merkel was for maiden trip here under the Modi government for the third Inter Governmental Consultations (IGC) to push economic and strategic partnership between two countries in October 2015.

- Portugal's governing centre-right coalition has won the country's general election in October 2015.
- In October 2015, Savills World Research said that, 9<sup>th</sup> Of 12 cities considered the most cosmopolitan in the world; Mumbai is the cheapest city to live and work in. London, Hong Kong and New York are the world's most expensive cities for companies to accommodate employees.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> India-Maldives Joint Commission meet led by Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj & Maldives Foreign Minister Dunya Maumoon began in Maldives on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.
- Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated Mahatma Gandhi Street in Jordanian capital Amman on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.
- Fiji's parliament on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 elected Jioji Konousi Konrote, the minister for employment, productivity and industrial relations as country's next president.
- Indian community groups in the UK launched a 'Modi Express' bus for a month-long tour around iconic landmarks in London to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's maiden visit to the country in November, 2015.

### **Contemporary Economic Development**

- Till October 2015, Under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) soft loans amounting to Rs 20,395 crore have been disbursed, so far, to a total of 31.80 lakh applicants across the country
- In October 2015, India has moved up 16 positions to rank 55<sup>th</sup> on a global index of the world's most competitive economies.
- In October 2015, Public sector Neyveli Lignite Corporation has set up its first 10 MW solar power plant at Neyveli.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) will help to finance the increased transmission capacity of the cross-border electricity link between India and Bangladesh.
- In October 2015, Cloud-based software provider, Freshdesk has acquired Chennai-based social recommendation app Frilp.
- India will ensure that its greenhouse gas emissions from one unit of GDP in 2030 are at least one third lesser than what it used to be in 2005.
- The number of people living in extreme poverty is likely to fall for the first time below 10 percent of the world's population in 2015. Extreme poverty has long been defined as living on or below \$1.25 a day, but the World Bank's adjustment now sets the poverty line at \$1.90 a day.
- In October 2015, Ashish Bahuguna, the Chairman of the food regulator FSSAI, has been given an additional charge of its CEO, following shifting of Yudhvir Singh Malik to the NITI Aayog .
- In October 2015, According to latest World Economic Outlook Update release by IMF the Indian economy is expected to grow faster than other major emerging economies.
- The United States, Japan and 10 other Pacific Rim nations on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 signed the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal
- According to World Bank for the first time less than 10% of the world's population will be living in extreme poverty by the end of 2015.
- For foreign portfolio investors, the Reserve Bank of India will be increasing the investment limit in government securities to Rs 1,79,500 crore by 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2016 from the existing Rs 1,53,500 crore.
- UCO Bank registered the highest increase on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015, in gross Non-Performing Assets in percentage terms against total loans in the 2014-15 fiscal year.
- The \$41-billion Aditya Birla Group has partnered with Dubai-based emerging markets buyout firm Abraaj Group.
- Bharti Airtel launched its new Wi-Fi app, Airtel Hangout on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.
- To create irrigation infrastructure at the ground level, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 approved a World Bank supported National Watershed Management project titled 'Neeranchal'.
- In October 2015, Telenor has started offering life insurance to its new and existing customers, with covers starting from Rs 5,000 going up to Rs 50,000, for which consumers don't need to pay any premium.
- BRICS nations joined hands on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2015, to combat and prevent organised human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and promised to strengthen dialogue and cooperation among member countries.
- India and South American nation Ecuador on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 signed an agreement to set up a Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO).
- Retail major Future Group on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 entered into a partnership with Baba Ramdev-promoted Patanjali Ayurved.

- The Reserve Bank has signed an agreement on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 on information sharing with Bank of Botswana under the Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information.
- Taking strict action against illegal money pooling schemes, Sebi has barred two firms Vaastav ALR International and Bharat Krishi Samridhi Industries and their directors from securities markets.

### **Newsmakers (Personalities)**

- Scientist M V K V Prasad has been appointed the new Director of Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) in October, 2015.
- Indian-American environmental engineer Kartik Chandran has been named a 2015 MacArthur Fellow in October, 2015
- Rajiv Lall took over as the MD & CEO of IDFC (Infrastructure Development Finance Company) Bank with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2015.
- Rangarajan Vellamore, CEO Infosys China, has become the first Indian to receive the Magnolia Gold award in October, 2015.
- Right Livelihood Awards also called as “alternative Nobels”, 2015 was given to Human rights and global crisis activists from Canada, Italy, Uganda, and the Marshall Islands in October, 2015.
- Volkswagen's Porsche business supervisory board has named Oliver Blume as its new chief executive on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2015, replacing Matthias Mueller.
- Maruti Suzuki Chairman RC Bhargava has been honoured with the lifetime achievement award at the Forbes India Leadership Awards (FILA), 2015 on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2015.
- Twitter has named Jack Dorsey as chief executive in October, 2015.
- Tamil writer Perumal Murugan will be honoured with the fourth Indian Languages Festival (ILF) ‘Samanvay Bhasha Samman’ 2015 in October, 2015.
- The Nobel Prize in physics has been awarded to Takaaki Kajita and Arthur McDonald for discovering that elusive subatomic particles called neutrinos weigh something more than nothing in October, 2015.
- Tomas Lindahl, Paul L. Modrich and Aziz Sancar were awarded the Noble prize in Chemistry in October 2015.
- In October 2015, New Zealand Tourism has roped in bollywood actor Sidharth Malhotra as the brand ambassador for India. Malhotra will be Tourism New Zealand's first Indian ambassador from India.
- In October 2015, A two-time Oscar winning composer, A.R. Rahman has been named the Cultural Ambassador for Seychelles.
- Hoesung Lee has been elected on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 as the head of the Inter-governmental Panel for Climate Change.
- In October 2015, The Nobel Prize 2015 in Literature went to Belarusian author Svetlana Alexievich.
- Nualgi, an Indian company with wholly Indian technology in the field of nano biotechnology has for the first time won a prestigious award at the Climate CoLab of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge.
- In October 2015, Scientist Shekhar Basu has been appointed as Atomic Energy Secretary and Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission.
- In October 2015, Ahmed Mansoor, an Emirati human rights activist was named the 2015 winner of an award often dubbed the Nobel prize for human rights.
- Music composer Ravindra Jain passes away In October 2015 .
- Rahman will be honoured with fifth Hridayanath Mangeshkar Award for his contribution to music in Indian cinema.
- Three scientists from Ireland, Japan and China have won the Nobel Prize in medicine in 2015.
- An 18-year-old Indian boy in the UAE has become the youngest affiliate with a global body for professional accountants.
- Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli was elected as the new Prime Minister of Nepal on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.
- Former telecom secretary M F Farooqui has been appointed Chairman of the Broadband India Forum (BIF).
- Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 elected Naishadh Parikh as its new Chairman and Binoy Job as its Secretary General.
- Rear Admiral Ravneet Singh, NM assumed command of the ‘Sword Arm’ of Indian Navy as the Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet (FOCWF) on 12 Oct 2015, at sea on board INS Viraat.

- British academic Angus Deaton has been awarded the Nobel economics prize for 2015 for his analysis of consumption, poverty, and welfare.
- Ranganath Mavinakere, EVP and head of strategic operations and CEO's office, is become the new CFO of Infosys.
- Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri's book 'Neither a Hawk nor a Dove,' has been launched on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 at Nehru Centre, Mumbai.
- P S Jayakumar, the former chief executive of VBHC Value Homes, on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 took charge as the new MD and CEO of the state-owned Bank of Baroda for three years.
- Veteran actor Vikram Gokhale will be felicitated with the prestigious Vishnudas Bhave Award at a ceremony in November, 2015.
- Tamil Nadu government has honoured Dr Shanthi Ranganathan with its 'Avvaiyaar Award' for the year 2015 on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.

## Sports

- Heena Sidhu clinched the gold medal in women's 10m air pistol to cap off India's campaign at the 8<sup>th</sup> Asian Air Gun Championship in October 2015.
- India will be hosting the combined shotgun/rifle/pistol World Cup in 2017.
- Commemorating Mahatma Gandhi's 146<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary, the BCCI have launched a specially-minted toss coin with the images of the Father of the Nation and Nelson Mandela for the India-South Africa cricket series to be held October-November 2015.
- Shashank Manohar was elected unopposed as the BCCI President in October 2015.
- David Ferrer beat his fellow Spaniard Feliciano Lopez 7-5, 7-5 in the final of the Malaysian. He capture the 25<sup>th</sup> title of his career and his fourth this year in October 2015.
- Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis won the WTA China Open in October 2015.
- Lewis Hamilton has won the Russian Formula One Grand Prix in Sochi, in October, 2015.

## 2. International and National Organizations their heads and headquarters

S.NO.	Name of the organization	Headquarter	Head of the Organization/(Designation)
1	United Nations	New York, USA	Ban Ki Moon ( Secretary-General)
2	UNICEF	New York, USA	Anthony Lake (Head)
3	UNESCO	Paris, France	Irina Brokova (Director General)
4	FAO	Rome, Italy	Graziano Da Silva ( Head)
5	WHO	Geneva, Switzerland	Margaret Chen (Director General)
6	ILO	Geneva, Switzerland	Guy Ryder (Head)
7	ICJ	The Hague, The Netherlands	Ronny Abaraham (President)
8	UNCTAD	Geneva, Switzerland	Mukhisa Kituyi (Secretary-General)
9	ADB	Manila, Philippines	Takehiko Nakao (President )
10	OECD	Paris, France	Jose Angel Gurria (Secretary General)
11	OPEC	Vienna, Austria	Abdallah el-Badri (Secretary General)
12	EU	Brussels, Belgium	Jean Claude Junker (President of European Commission)
13	G-8	Nil	Nil
14	G-20	Nil	Ahmet Davotoglu (Chairman-2015)
15	NATO	Brussels, Belgium	Jens Stoltenberg (Secretary-General)
16	IAEA	Vienna, Austria	Yukiya Amano (Head)
18	SAARC	Kathmandu	Arjun Bahadur Thapa (Secretary General-2015)

S.NO.	Name of the organization	Headquarter	Head of the Organization/(Designation)
19	IBSA	Political Forum	India+ Brazil+ South Africa
20	National Development Bank	Shanghai, China	K.V.Kamath (President)
21	Asia Infrastructure Bank (AIB)	Beijing, China	Jin Lique (President)
22	World Bank	Washington D.C	Jim Yong Kim (President)
23	IMF	Washington D.C	Christine Lagarde (Managing Director)
24	WTO	Geneva, Switzerland	Roberto Azevêdo (Director-General)
25	European Central Bank	Frankfurt, Germany	Mario Draghi (President)
26	Bank for International Settlements	Basel, Switzerland	Jaime Caruana (General Manager)
27	Federal Reserve Bank of America	Washington D.C	Janet L. Yellen (Chairperson of Board of Governors)
28	Financial Action Task Force (FATF)	Paris	Mr. Je-Yoon Shin (Chairman)
29	RBI	Mumbai	Raghuram Rajan (Governor)
30	NABARD	Mumbai (Maharashtra)	Harsh Kumar Bhanwala (Governor)
31	SEBI	Mumbai (Maharashtra)	Upendra Kumar Sinha (Chairman)
32	IRDA	Hyderabad	T S Vijayan (Chairman)
33	SIDBI	Lucknow	Dr. Kshatrapati Shivaji (CMD)
34	TRAI	New Delhi	R S Sharma (Chairman)
35	Competition Commission of India	New Delhi	Ashok Chawla (Chairman)
36	Niti Aayog	New Delhi	Arvind Panagariya (Vice Chairman)
37	IDFC Ltd.	Mumbai	Vikram Limaye (MD & CEO)
38	EXIM BANK	Mumbai	Shri Yaduvendra Mathur (Chairman & MD)
39	ECGC	Mumbai	Geetha Muralidhar (Chairperson & MD)
40	NHB	New Delhi	Sriram Kalyanaraman (MD & CEO)
41	IIFL	Mumbai	Nirmal Jain (Chairman)
42	ICICI	Mumbai	Chanda Kochhar (MD & CEO)
43	CAG	New Delhi	Shashi Kant Sharma
44	CEC	New Delhi	V. S. Sampath
45	Finance comission	New Delhi	Y.V.Reddy (Chairman 14 th Law Commission)
46	CBDT	New Delhi	Anita Kapur (Chairperson)
47	CBEC	New Delhi	Najib Shah (Chairman)
48	FSDC		Arun Jaitley (Chairman)
49	PFRDA	New Delhi	Hemant G Contractor (Chairman)

### 3. Countries, their capitals and currencies

Country	Capital	Currency	Continent
Afghanistan	Kabul	Afghani	Asia
Argentina	Buenos Aires	Peso	South America
Australia	Canberra	Australian Dollar	Australia
*Austria	Vienna	Schilling/Euro	Europe
Bangladesh	Dhaka	Taka	Asia
*Belgium	Brussels	Belgian Franc	Europe
Bhutan	Thimphu	Ngultrum	Asia
Brazil	Brasilia	Cruzeiro Real	South America
Bulgaria	Sofia	Lev	Europe
Canada	Ottawa	Canadian Dollar	North America
Chile	Santiago	Chilean Peso	South America
China	Beijing (Peking)	Renminbi Yuan	Asia
Colombia	Bogota	Colombian Peso	South America
Democratic Republic of Congo,	Kinshasa	Zaire	Africa
Croatia	Zagreb	Kuna	Europe
Cuba	Havana	Cuban Peso	North America
*Cyprus	Nicosia	Cyprus Pound/Euro	Europe
Czech Republic	Prague	Koruna	Europe
Denmark	Copenhagen	Danish Krone	Europe
Egypt	Cairo	Egyptian Pound	Africa
Fiji	Suva	Fijian Dollar	Australia
*Finland	Helsinki	Markka/Euro	Europe
*France	Paris	French Franc/Euro	Europe
*Germany	Berlin	Deutsche Mark/Euro	Europe
*Greece	Athens (Athinai)	Drachma/Euro	Europe
Hungary	Budapest	Forint	Europe
India	New Delhi	Indian Rupee	Asia
Indonesia	Jakarta	Indonesian Rupiah	Asia
Iran	Teheran	Iranian Rial	Asia
Iraq	Baghdad	Iraqi Dinar	Asia
*Ireland	Dublin	Irish Pound/Punt/Euro	Europe
Republic of Israel	Jerusalem	New Israeli Shekel	Asia
*Italy	Rome	Italian Lira	Europe
Japan	Tokyo	Yen	Asia
Kenya	Nairobi	Kenyan Shilling	Africa
Korea, South	Seoul	Won	Asia

Country	Capital	Currency	Continent
Libya	Tripoli	Libyan Dinar	Africa
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysian Dollar/Ringgit	Asia
Maldives	Male	Rufiyaa	Asia
Mauritius	Port Louis	Mauritian Rupee	Asia
Myanmar (Burma)	Naypyidaw	Kyat	Asia
Nepal	Kathmandu	Nepalese Rupee	Asia
*Netherlands	Amsterdam	Guilder	Europe
New Zealand	Wellington	New Zealand Dollar	Oceania
Nigeria	Abuja	Naira	Africa
Norway	Oslo	Norwegian Krone	Europe
Pakistan	Islamabad	Pakistan Rupee	Asia
Peru	Lima	New Sol	South America
Philippines	Manila	Philippine Peso	Asia
Poland	Warsaw	Zloty	Europe
*Portugal	Lisbon	Escudo	Europe
Qatar	Doha	Qatar Riyal	Asia
Russia	Moscow	Rouble	Asia/Europe
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Saudi Arabian Riyal	Asia
South Africa	Cape Town (Legislative) Pretoria (Administrative) Bloemfontein (Judicial)	Rand	Africa
South Sudan	Juba	South Sudanese Pound	Africa
*Spain	Madrid	Peseta	Europe
Sri Lanka	Sri-Jayawardenapura (since 1983); former capital, Colombo	Rupee	Asia
Sweden	Stockholm	Swedish Krona	Europe
Switzerland	Berne	Swiss Franc	Europe
Syria	Damascus	Syrian Pound	Asia
Thailand	Bangkok	Baht	Asia
Turkey	Ankara	Tunisian Lira	Asia
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	Abu Dhabi	United Arab Emirates	Asia
United Kingdom (UK)	London	Pound Sterling	Europe
United States of America	Washington, DC	US Dollar	North America
Venezuela	Caracas	Bolivar	South America
Vietnam	Hanoi	Dong	Asia
Yugoslavia	Belgrade (Serbia)	Yugoslav Dinar	Europe
Zimbabwe	Harare	Zimbabwe Dollar	Africa



#### 4. Countries and their heads of Governments

S.No.	Country	President	Prime Minister
1	Afghanistan	Ashraf Ghani	CEO: Abdullah Abdullah
2	Argentina	Christina Fernandez De Kirchner	
3	Australia		Malcolm Turnbull
4	Bangladesh	Abdul Hamid	Sheikh Hasina
5	Bhutan	Jigme Kheysar Namgel Wangchuck	Tshering Tobgay
6	Brazil	Dilma Rouseff	
7	Canada		Stephen Harper
8	Democratic Republic of Congo	Joseph Kabila	Augustin Matata Ponyo
9	Czech Republic	Milos Zeman	Bohuslav Sobotka
10	Egypt	Abdel Fateh el-Sisi	Sherif Ismail
11	Fiji	Ratu Epeli Nailatikau	Frank Bainimarama
12	France	Francois Hollande	Manuel Valls
13	Georgia	Giorgi Margvelashvili	Iraki Gribashvili
14	Greece	Prokoyis Pavlopoulos	Alexis Tsipras
16	India	Pranab Mukharjee	Narendra Modi
17	Indonesia	Joko Widodo	
18	Iran	Spreme Leader – Ayatollah Ali Khamenei	President-Hasan Rouhani
19	Iraq	Fuad Masum	Haider -al Abadi
20	Israel	Reuven Rivlin	Benjamin Netanyahu
21	Italy	Sergio Mattarella	Presidentofcouncilofministers:MatteoRenzi
22	Japan		Shinzo Abe
23	Jordan		Abdullah Ensour
24	Kazakhstan	Nursultan Nazarbayev	Karim Massimov
25	Kenya	Uhuru Kenyatta	
26	Kyrgyzstan	Almazbek Atambayev	Temir Sariyev
27	Liberia	Ellen Jhonson Sirleaf	
28	Libya		Abdullah -al-Thani
29	Malaysia		Najib Razak
30	Mauritius	Ameen Gurib	Sir Anerood Jugnauth
31	Mexico	Enrique Pena Nieto	
32	Myanmar	Thein Sein	
33	Nepal	Bidhya Devi Bhandari	Khadga Prasad Oli
34	Nigeria	Muhammadu Buhari	
35	North Korea	Kim Jong Un	
36	Pakistan	Mamnoon Hussain	Nawaz Sharif
37	Palestine	Mahmoud Abbas	Rami Hamdallah
38	Philippines	Bengino Aquino III	
39	Russia	Vladimir Putin	Dmitry Medvedev
40	Saudi Arabia		Salman
41	Singapore	Tony Tan	Lee Hsein Loong
42	South Africa	Jacob Zuma	

S.No.	Country	President	Prime Minister
43	South Korea	Park Geun Hye	Hwang Kyo Ahn
44	Sri Lanka	Maithripala Srisena	Ranil Wickremesinghe
45	Syria	Bashar al -Assad	Wael Nader Al Halqi
46	Thailand		Prayuth Chan -Ocha
47	Turkey	Recep Tayyip Erdogan	Ahmet Davutoglu
48	Ukraine	Petro Poroshenko	Arseniy Yatsenyuk
49	United Arab Emirates	Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan	Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum
50	USA	Barack Obama	
51	UK		David Cameron
52	Venezuela	Nicolas Maduro	
53	Yemen	Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi	Kahled Bahah
54	Zimbabwe	Robert Mugabe	

## 5. Banks their heads, headquarters and punch lines

S.No.	Name of the bank	Head/Chairman	Headquarter	Punchline
1	Allahabad Bank	Rakesh Sethi (CMD)	Kolkata	A tradition of trust
2	Andhra Bank	S.K. Kalra, A.K. Rath (Eds)	Hyderabad	Where India Banks
3	Bank of Baroda	Ravi Venkatesan (Chairman)/P.S. Jayakumar (MD & CEO)	Mumbai	India's International Bank
4	Bank of India	Melwyn Rego (MD & CEO)	Mumbai	Relationship beyond banking
5	Bank of Maharashtra	Sushil Munhot (Chairman and Managing Director)	Pune	Ek Parivar Ek Bank
6	Bhartiya Mahila Bank	S.M. Swathi ( Executive Director)	New Delhi	Empowering women Empowering India
7	Canara Bank	Chairman: T.N. Manoharan, MD & CEO: Rakesh Sharma	Bangalore	Together we can
8	Central Bank of India	Chairman and Managing Director : Rajiv Rishi	Mumbai	"CENTRAL" to you since 1911
9	Corporation Bank	Chairman and Managing Director : S.R. Bansal	Mangalore	Sarve Janah Sukhino Bhavantu
10	Dena Bank	Chairman and Managing Director : Ashwini Kumar	Mumbai	Trusted Family Bank
11	Indian Bank	Executive Director ( Add charge of MD & CEO ) : Mahesh Kumar Jain	Chennai	Your own Bank
12	Indian Overseas Bank	MD & CEO: R. Koteeswaran	Chennai	Good people to grow with
13	Oriental Bank of Commerce	MD & CEO: Animesh Chauhan	New Delhi	Where every individual is committed
14	Punjab National Bank	MD & CEO: Usha Ananthasubramanian	New Delhi	...the name you can BANK upon!
15	Punjab & Sindh Bank	Chairman and Managing Director: Jatinder Bir Singh	New Delhi	where service is a way of life
16	Syndicate Bank	MD & CEO: Arun Srivastava	Manipal	Faithful Friendly
17	Union Bank of India	Chairman and MD : Arun Tiwari	Mumbai	Good people to bank with

S.No.	Name of the bank	Head/Chairman	Headquarter	Punchline
18	United Bank of India	MD & CEO: P. Srinivas	Calcutta	The Bank that begins with "U"
19	UCO Bank	J.K. Garg Executive Director & Charan Singh: Executive Director	Calcutta	Honours your trust
20	Vijaya Bank	MD & CEO: Kishor Kumar Sansi	Bangalore	A friend you can bank upon
21	IDBI Bank Ltd.	MD & CEO: Kishore Kharat	Mumbai	_____
22	State Bank of India	Chairperson : Arundhati Bhattacharya	Mumbai	The Banker to every Indian

SBI has 5 more associate banks attached with it which are : Mysore, Patiala, Bikaner and Jaipur, Travancore, Hyderabad

## 6. Private Indian Banks and their heads

Bank	Head
HDFC Bank	Aditya Puri, MD
ICICI Bank	Chanda Kochhar, MD & CEO
Axis Bank	Shikha Sharma, CEO
Yes Bank	Rana Kapoor, CEO
Kotak Bank	Uday Kotak, CEO
Bandhan Bank	Chandrashekhar Ghosh, MD & CEO
Indusind Bank	Romesh Sobti, CEO
IDFC Bank	Dr. Rajeev B. Lall, MD & CEO
IngVysa Bank	Shailendra Bhandari, MD & CEO
Karur Vysya Bank	K. Venkata Raman, MD & CEO

## 7. Foreign Banks and their countries of origin

Given below is the list of foreign banks operational in India as on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015.

Name of the Bank	Country of their origin
<b>Australian banks</b>	1. Australia and New Zealand Banking Group 2. Commonwealth Bank of Australia 3. National Australia Bank 4. Westpac Banking Corporation
<b>Bahraini bank</b>	1. Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait
<b>Bangladeshi banks</b>	1. AB Bank 2. Sonali Bank
<b>Belgian bank</b>	1. Antwerp Diamond Bank
<b>Canadian bank</b>	1. Bank of Nova Scotia
<b>Chinese bank</b>	1. Industrial & Commercial Bank of China
<b>French banks</b>	1. BNP Paribas 2. Credit Agricole 3. Societe Generale
<b>German banks</b>	1. Deutsche Bank
<b>Indonesian bank</b>	1. Bank Internasional Indonesia

Name of the Bank	Country of their origin
<b>Japanese banks</b>	1. Mizuho Corporate Bank 2. Sumitomo Mitsui Banking 3. Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi
<b>Mauritian bank</b>	1. State Bank of Mauritius
<b>Dutch bank</b>	1. Rabobank
<b>Qatari bank</b>	1. Doha bank
<b>Russian banks</b>	1. Sberbank 2. VTB
<b>Omani bank</b>	1. HSBC Bank Oman
<b>Scottish bank</b>	1. Royal Bank of Scotland
<b>Singaporean banks</b>	1. DBS Bank 2. United Overseas Bank
<b>South African bank</b>	1. FirstRand Bank
<b>South Korean banks</b>	1. Shinhan Bank 2. Woori Bank
<b>Sri Lankan bank</b>	1. Bank of Ceylon
<b>Swiss banks</b>	1. Credit Suisse 2. UBS AG
<b>Taiwanese bank</b>	1. Chinatrust Commercial Bank
<b>Thai bank</b>	1. Krung Thai Bank
<b>UAE banks</b>	1. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank 2. Mashreq Bank
<b>UK banks</b>	1. HSBC 2. Barclays Bank 3. Standard Chartered Bank 4. The Royal Bank of Scotland(RBS N.V)
<b>US banks</b>	1. American Express 2. Bank of America 3. Citibank 4. J.P. Morgan Chase Bank

## 8. Government schemes

### ➤ **Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**

It is National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner. Account can be opened in any bank branch or Business Correspondent outlet. PMJDY accounts are being opened with Zero balance. However, if the account-holder wishes to get cheque book, he/she will have to fulfill minimum balance criteria.

### ➤ **Sukanya Samriddhi Account**

It is a saving scheme targeted at the parents of girl children. The scheme encourages parents to build a fund for the future education and marriage expenses for their female child. The account can be opened at any India Post office or a branch of some authorised commercial banks. Initially, the interest rate was set at 9.1% but later revised to 9.25 in late March 2015.

### ➤ **MUDRA Bank Yojana**

This yojana is under the Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) Bank is a new institution being set up by Government of India for development and refinancing activities relating to micro units. The purpose of MUDRA is to provide funding to the non corporate small business sector and to serve those three categories of

interventions has been named which includes

**Shishu** :- Loan upto Rs. 50000

**Kishore** :- Loan ranging from Rs. 50000 to Rs. 5 lakh

**Tarun** :- Loan above Rs. 5 lakh and below Rs. 10 lakh

➤ **Sansad Adarsh Gram yojana**

This yojana is launched by the Rural Development Ministry is aimed at improving the quality of all sections of the population in the villages. Under this scheme, each MP adopts a village every year for all-round development and helps in development of the selected villages using the programme of the Centre and States and their constituency development funds (MPLADS).

➤ **Indira Awas Yojana:**

It is a social welfare flagship programme, created by the Indian Government, to provide housing for the rural poor in India. It provides financial assistance to rural poor for constructing their houses themselves.

➤ **Janani Suraksha Yojana:**

It is an Indian Government scheme proposed by the Government of India. It was launched on 12 April 2005 by the Prime Minister of India. It aims to decrease the neo-natal and maternal deaths happening in the country by promoting institutional delivery of babies.

➤ **Digital India Programme:**

Digital India is an initiative by the Government of India to ensure that Government services are made available to citizens electronically by improving online infrastructure and by increasing Internet connectivity. It was launched on 1 September 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The initiative includes plans to connect rural areas with high-speed internet networks. Digital India has three core components.

➤ **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)**

The DDUGJY is one of the flagship programmes of the Ministry of Power and will facilitate 24x7 supply of power. The scheme approved by the Union Government draws its inspiration from the similar pioneering scheme implemented by the Gujarat Government. This scheme will enable to initiate much awaited reforms in the rural areas.

➤ **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**

APY is a guaranteed pension scheme and is administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). The idea of the scheme is to provide a definite pension to all Indians.

**10. One Rank One Pension scheme (OROP)**

The Central Government allotted Rs. 1000 Crore for the implementation of one rank one pension scheme. According to the scheme, the armed forces personnel holding the same rank will get the same pension, regardless of the last drawn pay, years of service and the years served in a particular rank.

**11. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA)**

It aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

**12. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana**

It is a State Plan Scheme of Additional Central Assistance launched in August 2007 as a part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan by the Government of India. It was launched under the aegis of the National Development Council; it seeks to achieve 4% annual growth in agriculture through development of Agriculture and its allied sectors.

**13. Saksham or Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Boys**

Sit aims at all-round development of adolescent boys and make them self-reliant, gender sensitive and make them aware when they grow up. It covers all adolescent boys in the age group of 11-18 years.

**14. Sabla or rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls**

The Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) Sabla is a centrally sponsored program of Government of India initiated on April 1, 2011 under Ministry of Women and Child Development. It was launched to enable the adolescent girls for self-development and empowerment, and also to improve their nutrition and health status.

**15. Skill India Programme**

It aims to provide a strong institutional framework at the Centre and States for implementation of skilling activities in the country. It seeks to provide the institutional capacity to train a minimum of 40 crore skilled people by 2022.

**16. Swabhiman**

This nationwide programme on financial inclusion was launched in February, 2011 with its focus on bringing the deprived sections of the society in the banking network to ensure that the benefits of economic growth reach everyone at all levels.

**17. Swavlamban**

This Yojana was a government-backed pension scheme targeted at the unorganized sector in India. It was applicable to all citizens in the unorganized sector that joined the National Pension Scheme (NPS) administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Act 2013.

**18. Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)**

HRIDAY was launched on 21 January 2015 with the aim of bringing together urban planning, economic growth and heritage conservation in an inclusive manner to preserve the heritage character of each heritage city.

**19. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)**

AMRUT is a mission aimed at transforming 500 cities and towns into efficient urban living spaces, with special focus on a healthy and green environment for children.

**20. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**

Under this scheme Indian government is planning to make approximately 22 crore houses by 2011. The main focus to launch this scheme is to provide decent and affordable houses to transgender, widows, low income groups/SC communities.

**21. National Rural Health Mission (NHRM)**

It is an initiative undertaken by the government of India to address the health needs of underserved rural areas. Launched in April 2005 by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the NRHM was initially tasked with addressing the health needs of 18 states that had been identified as having weak public health indicators.

**22. Public Distribution System (PDS)**

PDS is a govt-sponsored chain of shops entrusted with the work of distributing basic food and non-food commodities to the needy sections of the society at very cheap prices. It is procured and maintained by Food Corporation of India.

**23. National Food Security Mission**

In view of the stagnating food grain production and an increasing consumption need of the growing population, Government of India has launched this Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 'National Food Security Mission' in October 2007. The aim of the scheme is to increase production and productivity of wheat, rice and pulses on a sustainable basis.

**24. Minimum Support Prices Scheme**

It is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices. The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

**25. Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA)**

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is Government of India's flagship programme for achievement of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) in a time bound manner, as mandated by 86<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution of India making free and compulsory Education to the Children of 6-14 years age group, a Fundamental Right.

**26. Aajeevika- National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)**

Aajeevika - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India in June 2011. Aided in part through investment support by the World Bank, the Mission aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.

**27. Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)**

It is a certificate savings scheme was launched by the Government on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1988. The scheme provided facility of unlimited investment by way of purchase of certificates from post offices in various denominations. The maturity period of the scheme when launched was 5 ½ years and the money invested doubled on maturity.

**28. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sinchai Yojana**

This Yojana is aimed at irrigating the field of every farmer and improving water use efficiency to provide 'Per Drop More Crop'.

**29. Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)**

It is a certificate savings scheme was launched by the Government on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1988. The scheme provided facility of unlimited investment by way of purchase of certificates from post offices in various denominations. The maturity period of the scheme when launched was 5 ½ years and the money invested doubled on maturity.

### 30. **Krishi Amdani Beema Yojana**

Krishi Amdani Beema Yojana is framed so that the farmers don't bear any financial burden if their produce gets destroyed due to unexpected weather or for any other reason.

## 9. Economic data

1. **GDP size:** \$2.308 trillion (Nominal, October 2015)  
\$8.027 trillion (PPP, October 2015)
2. **GDP rank:** 7<sup>th</sup> (Nominal) / 3<sup>rd</sup> (PPP)
3. **GDP growth:** 7.4% as per the latest Monetary & Credit policy issued on 29<sup>th</sup> Sep 2015.
4. **GDP per capita:** \$1,688(Nominal: 131<sup>st</sup>; October 2015)  
\$6,209 (PPP: 121<sup>st</sup>; 2015)
5. **GDP by sector:**  
(i) Agriculture: 17%  
(ii) Industry: 26%  
(iii) Services: 57% (2013-14)
6. **Main industries:** software, petroleum products, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, textiles, steel, transportation equipment, machinery, leather, cement, mining, construction
7. **Ease-of-doing-business rank:** 142/189 countries (2015)
8. **Export goods:** software, petrochemicals, agriculture products, Jewellery, engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, textiles, chemicals, transportation, ores and other commodities
9. **Import goods:** crude oil, gold and precious stones, electronics, engineering goods, chemicals, plastics, coal and ores, iron and steel, vegetable oil and other commodities
10. **Current account:** positive decrease 1.3% of GDP (\$27.5 billion) (2014–2015).
11. **Public debt:** 64.9% of GDP (2014)
12. **Budget deficit:** 3.9% of GDP (2015–16)
13. **Revenues:** □ 27.5 trillion (US\$420 billion) (2015, IMF)
14. **Expenses:** □ 37.6 trillion (US\$570 billion) (2015, IMF)
15. **Foreign reserves:** \$350.81 billion (as of 25 September 2015)
16. **Reverse Repo Rate:** 5.75%
17. **Marginal Standing Facility Rate:** 7.75%
18. **Bank Rate:** 7.75%
19. **CRR:** 4%
20. **SLR:** 21.5%
21. **Fiscal Deficit** is 3.99 per cent of GDP for the 2015-16.
22. **Savings Deposit Rate:** 4%
23. **Term Deposit Rate > 1 yr:** 7.00-7.90%  
**Base Rate:** 9.30-9.70%

## Details of FDI Investments in Various Sectors

### (A) Sectors with Restrictions

- Lottery Business including Government /private lottery, online lotteries, etc.
- Gambling and Betting including casinos etc.
- Chit funds
- Nidhi company-(borrowing from members and lending to members only).
- Trading in Transferable Development Rights (TDRs)
- Real Estate Business (other than construction development) or Construction of Farm Houses

- Manufacturing of Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes
- Activities / sectors not open to private sector investment e.g. Atomic Energy and Railway Transport (other than construction, operation and maintenance of (i) Suburban corridor projects through PPP, (ii) High speed train projects, (iii) Dedicated freight lines, (iv) Rolling stock including train sets, and locomotives/coaches manufacturing and maintenance facilities, (v) Railway Electrification, (vi) Signaling systems, (vii) Freight terminals, (viii) Passenger terminals, (ix) Infrastructure in industrial park pertaining to railway line/sidings including electrified railway lines and connectivities to main railway line and (x) Mass Rapid Transport Systems.)
- Services like legal, book keeping, accounting & auditing.

### **(B) Sectors with Caps**

- Petroleum Refining by PSU (49%).
- Teleports (setting up of up-linking HUBs/Teleports), Direct to Home (DTH), Cable Networks (Multi-system operators (MSOs) operating at national, state or district level and undertaking upgradation of networks towards digitalization and addressability), Mobile TV and Headend-in-the-Sky Broadcasting Service (HITS) – (74%).
- Cable Networks (49%).
- Broadcasting content services- FM Radio (26%), uplinking of news and current affairs TV channels (26%).
- Print Media dealing with news and current affairs (26%).
- Air transport services- scheduled air transport (49%), non-scheduled air transport (74%).
- Ground handling services – Civil Aviation (74%).
- Satellites- establishment and operation (74%).
- Private security agencies (49%).
- Private Sector Banking- Except branches or wholly owned subsidiaries (74%).
- Public Sector Banking (20%).
- Commodity exchanges (49%).
- Credit information companies (74%).
- Infrastructure companies in securities market (49%).
- Insurance and sub-activities (49%).
- Power exchanges (49%).
- Defence (49% above 49% to CCS).

### **(C) Sectors Requiring Central Government Approval**

- Tea sector, including plantations – 100%.
- Mining and mineral separation of titanium-bearing minerals and ores, its value addition and integrated activities – 100%.
- FDI in enterprise manufacturing items reserved for small scale sector – 100%.
- Defence – up to 49% under FIPB/CCEA approval, beyond – 49% under CCS approval (on a case-to-case basis, wherever it is likely to result in access to modern and state-of-the-art technology in the country).
- Teleports (setting up of up-linking HUBs/Teleports), Direct to Home (DTH), Cable Networks (Multi-system operators operating at National or State or District level and undertaking upgradation of networks towards digitalization and addressability), Mobile TV and Headend-in-the Sky Broadcasting Service (HITS) – beyond 49% and up to 74%.
- Broadcasting Content Services: uplinking of news and current affairs channels – 26%, uplinking of non-news and current affairs TV channels – 100%.
- Publishing/printing of scientific and technical magazines/specialty journals/periodicals – 100%.
- Print media: publishing of newspaper and periodicals dealing with news and current affairs- 26%, Publication of Indian editions of foreign magazines dealing with news and current affairs- 26%.
- Terrestrial Broadcasting FM (FM Radio) – 26%.
- Publication of facsimile edition of foreign newspaper – 100%.
- Airports – brownfield – beyond 74%.
- Non-scheduled air transport service – beyond 49% and up to 74%.
- Ground-handling services – beyond 49% and up to 74%.
- Satellites – 74%.
- Private securities agencies – 49%.
- Telecom-100%.



- Single brand retail – 100%.
- Asset reconstruction company – 100%
- Banking private sector (other than WOS/Branches) – beyond 49% and up to 74%, public sector – 20%.
- Pharmaceuticals – brownfield – 100%.
- Medical Devices – 100%

#### **(D) Recent Policy Changes**

- FDI in commodity exchanges, stock exchanges & depositories, power exchanges, petroleum refining by PSUs, courier services under the government route has now been brought under the automatic route.
- Removal of restriction in tea plantation sector.
- FDI limit of 26% in defence sector raised to 49% under Government approval route. Foreign Portfolio Investment up to 24% permitted under automatic route. FDI beyond 49% is also allowed on a case to case basis with the approval of Cabinet Committee on Security.
- Construction, operation and maintenance of specified activities of Railway sector opened to 100% foreign direct investment under automatic route.

**Note : The above mentioned data is as on October 15, 2015.**

### **10. Census-2011 data**

Rank	State /Union Territory	Type	Population	%	Males	Females	Sex Ratio	Literacy	Rural Population	Urban Population	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Density (/km <sup>2</sup> )
1	Uttar Pradesh	State	199812341	16.5	104480510	95331831	930	67.68	131658339	34539582	240928	828
2	Maharashtra	State	112374333	9.28	58243056	54131277	929	82.34	55777647	41100980	307713	365
3	Bihar	State	104099452	8.6	54278157	49821295	918	61.8	74316709	8681800	94163	1102
4	West Bengal	State	91276115	7.54	46809027	44467088	950	76.26	57748946	22427251	88752	1030
5	Andhra Pradesh + Telangana	State	84580777	6.99	42442146	42138631	993	67.02	55401067	20808940	275045	308
6	Madhya Pradesh	State	72626809	6	37612306	35014503	931	69.32	44380878	15967145	308245	236
7	Tamil Nadu	State	72147030	5.96	36137975	36009055	996	80.09	34921681	27483998	130058	555
8	Rajasthan	State	68548437	5.66	35550997	32997440	928	66.11	43292813	13214375	342239	201
9	Karnataka	State	61095297	5.05	30966657	30128640	973	75.36	34889033	17961529	191791	319
10	Gujarat	State	60439692	4.99	31491260	28948432	919	78.03	31740767	18930250	196024	308
11	Orissa	State	41974218	3.47	21212136	20762082	979	72.87	31287422	5517238	155707	269
12	Kerala	State	33406061	2.76	16027412	17378649	1084	94	23574449	8266925	38863	859
13	Jharkhand	State	32988134	2.72	16930315	16057819	948	66.41	20952088	5993741	79714	414
14	Assam	State	31205576	2.58	15939443	15266133	958	72.19	23216288	3439240	78438	397
15	Punjab	State	27743338	2.29	14639465	13103873	895	75.84	16096488	8262511	50362	550
16	Chhattisgarh	State	25545198	2.11	12832895	12712303	991	70.28	16648056	4185747	135191	189
17	Haryana	State	25351462	2.09	13494734	11856728	879	75.55	15029260	6115304	44212	573
18	Delhi	UT	16787941	1.39	8987326	7800615	868	86.21	944727	12905780	1484	11297
19	Jammu and Kashmir	State	12541302	1.04	6640662	5900640	889	67.16	7627062	2516638	222236	56
20	Uttarakhand	State	10086292	0.83	5137773	4948519	963	78.82	6310275	2179074	53483	189
21	Himachal Pradesh	State	6864602	0.57	3481873	3382729	972	82.8	5482319	595581	55673	123
22	Tripura	State	3673917	0.3	1874376	1799541	960	87.22	2653453	545750	10486	350
23	Meghalaya	State	2966889	0.25	1491832	1475057	989	74.43	1864711	454111	22429	132
24	Manipur	State	2570390	0.21	1290171	1280219	992	79.21	1590820	575968	22327	122
25	Nagaland	State	1978502	0.16	1024649	953853	931	79.55	1647249	342787	16579	119

Rank	State /Union Territory	Type	Population	%	Males	Females	Sex Ratio	Literacy	Rural Population	Urban Population	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Density (/km <sup>2</sup> )
26	Goa	State	1458545	0.12	739140	719405	973	88.7	677091	670577	3702	394
27	Arunachal Pradesh	State	1383727	0.11	713912	669815	938	65.38	870087	227881	83743	17
28	Pondicherry	UT	1247953	0.1	612511	635442	1037	85.85	325726	648619	479	2598
29	Mizoram	State	1097206	0.09	555339	541867	976	91.33	447567	441006	21081	52
30	Chandigarh	UT	1055450	0.09	580663	474787	818	86.05	92120	808515	114	9252
31	Sikkim	State	610577	0.05	323070	287507	890	81.42	480981	59870	7096	86
32	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	UT	380581	0.03	202871	177710	876	86.63	239954	116198	8249	46
33	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	UT	343709	0.03	193760	149949	774	76.24	170027	50463	491	698
34	Daman and Diu	UT	243247	0.02	150301	92946	618	87.1	100856	57348	112	2169
35	Lakshadweep	UT	64473	0.01	33123	31350	946	91.85	33683	26967	32	2013
<b>Total</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>29 + 7</b>	<b>1210854977</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>623724248</b>	<b>586469174</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>833087662</b>	<b>377105760</b>	<b>3287240</b>	<b>382</b>

## 11. International and National awards and their latest winners

### International Awards

#### 1. Nobel prizes 2015

##### **The Nobel Prize in Physics 2015**

Takaaki Kajita and Arthur B. McDonald “for the discovery of neutrino oscillations, which shows that neutrinos have mass”

##### **The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2015**

Tomas Lindahl, Paul Modrich and Aziz Sancar “for mechanistic studies of DNA repair”

##### **The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2015**

William C. Campbell and Satoshi Ōmura “for their discoveries concerning a novel therapy against infections caused by roundworm parasites”.

##### **The Nobel Prize in Literature 2015**

Svetlana Alexievich “for her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time”.

##### **The Nobel Peace Prize 2015**

National Dialogue Quartet “for its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011”.

##### **The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2015**

Angus Deaton “for his analysis of consumption, poverty, and welfare”.

#### 2. Man Booker Prize for Fiction (2015)

A Brief History of Seven Killings by Marlon James named as the winner of the 2015 Man Booker Prize for Fiction.

#### 3. International Man Booker Prize (2015)

Laszlo Krasznahorkai of Hungary was announced as the winner of the Man Booker International Prize 2015.

#### 4. Oscar awards latest

Best actor: Eddie Redmayne (The Theory of Everything)

Best Actress: Julianne Moore (Still Alice)

Movie: Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)

Director: Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)-Alejandro G. Iñárritu

Foreign language film : Ida (Poland); Directed by Pawel Pawlikowski

#### 5. Magsasay award ( only Indian winners): Whistleblower Indian forest officer Sanjiv Chaturvedi and founder of NGO Goonj Anshu Gupta are the two Indians selected for this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award.

6. **Abel prize:** The Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters awarded the Abel Prize for 2015 to the American mathematicians John F. Nash, Jr. and Louis Nirenberg “for striking and seminal contributions to the theory of nonlinear partial differential equations and its applications to geometric analysis.”
7. **Right livelihood awards:** The 2015 Laureates of the Right Livelihood Award:  
Tony de Brum & the People of the Marshall Islands, Sheila Watt-Cloutier (Canada), Kasha Jacqueline Nabagesera (Uganda), and Gino Strada / EMERGENCY (Italy).
8. **Templeton Awards:** Jean Vanier, the founder of L’Arche, a revolutionary international network of communities where people with and without intellectual disabilities live and work together as peers, has won the 2015 Templeton Prize.
9. **Pulitzer prize (only Indian winners):** An Indian-origin software engineer in the US has shared this year’s Pulitzer Prize for graphics team of investigative journalism, in growing recognition of the importance of using IT tools in reporting. **Palani Kumanan**, who is a software architect with Dow Jones that publishes the Wall Street Journal, was a part of the winning project’s graphics team.
10. **World Food Prize : Sir Fazle Hasan Abed of Bangladesh** was announced as the 2015 winner of the World Food Prize, the most prominent global award for individuals whose breakthrough achievements alleviate hunger and promote global food security.

### **National Awards**

1. **Bharat Ratna:** The country’s highest civilian honor Bharat Ratna 2015 was conferred to freedom fighter Madan Mohan Malaviya posthumously & Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
2. **Padma Vibhushan 2015:**  
LK Advani- Public Affairs- Gujarat  
Amitabh Bachchan- Art- Maharashtra  
Prakash Singh Badal- Public Affairs- Punjab  
Dr D Veerendra Heggade- Social Work- Karnataka  
Mohammad Yusuf Khan alias Dilip Kumar- Art- Maharashtra  
Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami Rambhadracharya- Others- Uttar Pradesh  
Prof Malur Ramaswamy Srinivasan- Science and Engineering- Tamil Nadu  
Kottayan K. Venugopal- Public Affairs- Delhi  
Karim Al Hussaini Aga Khan (Foreigner)- Trade and Industry- France/UK
3. **National Film awards 2014:** Best Feature Film: Court (Marathi, Gujarati, Hindi, English)  
Best Debut Film of A Director: Asha Jaoar Majhe (Bengali)  
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: Mary Kom (Hindi)  
Best Animated Film: Sound of Joy  
Best Direction: Srijit Mukherji for Chotushkone (Bengali)  
Best Film on Environment / Conservation / Preservation: Ottaal (Malyalam)  
Best Actor: Vijay for Nanu Avanalla Avalu (Kannada)  
Best Actress: Kangana Ranaut for Queen (Hindi)  
Best Supporting Actor: Bobby Simha for Jigarthanda  
Best Supporting Actress: Baljinder Kaur for Pagdi The Honour  
Best Male Playback Singer: Sukhwinder Singh for Haider for Bismil song  
Best Female Playback Singer: Saivam and Uttara Unnikrishanan for Azhagu song  
Best Screenplay (Dialogues): Vishal Bharadwaj for Haider  
Best Music Direction (Songs): Vishal Bharadwaj for Haider (Hindi)  
Best Music Direction (Background Score): Gopi Sundar for Nineteen Eighty Three (Malyalam)  
Best Costume Design: Dolly Ahluwalia for Haider
4. **Gyanpeeth awards:** Eminent Marathi litterateur Bhalchandra Nemade, whose 1963 novel Kosala(Cocoon) changed the dimensions of Marathi novel, was selected for 2014 Jnanpith Award, the highest literary honour in India.

5. **Saraswati samman:** M Veerappa Moily has been selected for Saraswati Samman for year 2014 for his famous Kannada poem 'Ramayana Mahanveshanam'.
6. **Rajiv gandhi khel ratna puraskar:** Sania Mirza (Lawn Tennis) is awarded Rajiv gandhi khel ratna puraskar.
7. **Kalidas samman:** Heisnam Kanhailal bestowed 'Rashtriya Kalidas Sammaan' for 2012-13 by Kalidas Academy.
8. **Sahitya Akademi awards:** Ramesh Chandra Shah was awarded Sahitya Academy Awards 2014 for Vinayak (Novel) Hindi.
9. **Dada Saheb Phalke Award- 2015-** Veteran Cine actor Shashi Kapoor.

## 12. Latest Books and Authors

In banking examinations, it is seen that questions from the works of very famous authors is generally asked. Here is the list of some very important authors and their respective works.

1	<b>Arundhati Roy</b>	The God of Small Things, Power Politics, War Talk, Public Power in the Age of Empire, An Ordinary Person's Guide to Empire, The Algebra of Infinite Justice, Capitalism: A Ghost Story, The Hanging of Afzal Guru, 13 December, India: A Mosaic
2	<b>Chetan Bhagat</b>	Half Girlfriend, What Young India Wants, Revolution 2020, 2 States, The 3 Mistakes of my Life, One Night @ the Call Center, Five Point Someone
3	<b>V.S. Naipaul</b>	An Area of Darkness, Mr Stone And The Knights Companion, A Flag on the Island, The Loss of El Dorado: A Colonial History, Finding the Center, Bombay, Adventures of Gurudeva, Fireflies, The Mystic Masseur, In a Free State, India: A Wounded Civilization, India: A Million Mutinies Now, Half a Life, Magic Seeds, A House for Mr Biswas, A Bend in the River, The Enigma of Arrival
4	<b>Amitav Ghosh</b>	Sea of Poppies, River of Smoke, The Glass Palace, The Circle of Reason
5	<b>Anita Desai</b>	Midnight's Children, The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, Fasting, Feasting, The Village by the Sea, Fire on the Mountain, Games at Twilight, The Village by the Sea
6	<b>Kiran Desai</b>	The Inheritance of Loss, Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard, India Pack – 2003, AIDS Sutra: Untold Stories from India, Generation 1.5
7	<b>APJ Abdul Kalam</b>	Ignited Minds: Unleashing the Power within India, Turning Points: A Journey through Challenges, India 2020: A Vision for The New Millennium, My Journey: Transforming Dreams into Actions, Indomitable Spirit, Inspiring Thoughts, The Scientific Indian: A Twenty-first Century Guide to the World around Us, Mission India: A Vision for Indian Youth, You Are Born To Blossom: Take My Journey Beyond., You are Unique: Scale New Heights by Thoughts and Actions, Forge your Future, The Luminous Sparks, Spirit Of India, India My Dream, Transcendence My Spiritual Experiences with Pramukh Swamiji, Scientist to President, The Righteous Life: The Very Best of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Wings of Fire: An Autobiography, The Family and The Nation
8	<b>Salman Rushdie</b>	Midnight's Children, The Satanic Verses, The Ground beneath Her Feet, Shame, Khalifa Brothers, Haroun and the Sea of Stories, Shalimar the Clown, Grimus, The Jaguar Smile: A Nicaraguan Journey, Joseph Anton, Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-Eight Nights
9	<b>Taslima Nasareen</b>	Lajja, Amar Meyebela, Utal Hawa, Dwikhondito, Oporpokkho (The Opponent), Shodh, Nimontron (Invitation), Phera (Return), Bhromor Koio Gia (Tell Him The Secret), Forashi Premik (French Lover), Nirbasan
10	<b>Jhumpa Lahiri</b>	Hell-Heaven, Brotherly Love, The Lowland, Improvisations: Rice, Unaccustomed Earth, The interpreter of maladies, The Namesake, The Third and Final Continent
11	<b>Vikram Seth</b>	A Suitable Boy, The Golden Gate, An Equal Music: A Novel, A Suitable Girl, The Golden Gate, Three Chinese Poets, The Humble Administrator's Garden, Rivered Earth, The, All You Who Sleep Tonight
12	<b>Aravind Adiga</b>	The White Tiger, Last Man in Tower, Between the Assassinations

### List of books and authors – 2015

1. *The Courage to Act - A Memoir of a Crisis and Its Aftermath* : Ben S. Bernanke
2. *Two Years Eight Months and Twenty Eight Nights* : Salman Rushdie
3. *To the Brink and Back: India's 1991 Story* : Jairam Ramesh
4. *Globalisation, Democratization and Distributive Justice* : Dr. Mool Chand Sharma
5. *30 Women in Power: Their Voices, Their Stories* : Naina Lal Kidwai
6. *Ramcharitmanas (105-year-old Urdu copy)* : Shiv Brat Lal
7. *Mrs Funnybones* : Twinkle Khanna
8. *Making India Awesome* : Chetan Bhagat
9. *The Kumbh Mela: Mapping the Ephemeral Megacity* : Tarun Khanna
10. *R.D. Burman: The Prince of Music* : Khagesh Dev Burman
11. *Ghosts of Calcutta* : Sebastian Ortiz
12. *Green Signals: Ecology, Growth, and Democracy in India* : Jairam Ramesh
13. *Transcendence: My Spiritual Experiences with Pramukh Swamiji* : Abdul Kalam
14. *Beyond Doubt: A Dossier on Gandhi's Assassination* : Teesta Setalvad
15. *Modi - Incredible emergence of a star (in Chinese language)* : Tarun Vijay
16. *Education of Muslims* : Professor JS Rajput
17. *Sourav Ganguly: Cricket, Captaincy and Controversy* : Saptarshi Sarkar
18. *Flood of fire* : Amitav Ghosh
19. *Super Economies* : Raghav Bahl
20. *Complete Story of Indian Reforms: 2G, Power & Private Enterprise* : Pradeep Baijal
21. *Unbelievable – Delhi to Islamabad* : Prof Bhim Singh
22. *Food for All* : Uma Lele
23. *Family Life* : Akhil Sharma (winner of the Folio Prize 2015)
24. *Faces and Places* : Prof. Deepak Nayyar
25. *Indian Parliamentary Diplomacy- Speaker's Perspective* : Meira Kumar
26. *Editor Unplugged: Media, Magnates, Netas and Me* : Vinod Mehta
27. *Kiran Bedi — Kaise Bani Top Cop* : Kiran Bedi
28. *Fragile Frontiers: The Secret History of Mumbai Terror Attacks* : SK Rath
29. *Book on Sonia Gandhi titled The Red Sari* : Javier Moro
30. (Tamil Novel) *Madhorubhagan* : Perumal Murugan
31. *Why I Assassinated Gandhi* : Nathuram Godse and Gopal Godse

### 13. International and National days

Generally 1 to 2 questions are asked from this segment. Here is the list of some very important international and national days.

#### (i) International Days

Date	Name of the Day
January 26	International Customs Day
March 8	International Women's Day
March 15	World Consumers' Day
March 21	World Forestry Day
March 22	World Day for Water
March 23	World Meteorological Day
April 7	World Health Day
April 17	World Haemophilia Day
April 18	World Heritage Day
April 22	World Earth Day

Date	Name of the Day
May 1	International Labour Day
May 3	International Press Freedom Day
May 8	World Red Cross Day
May 24	Commonwealth Day
May 31	Anti-tobacco Day/World No Tobacco Day
June 5	World Environment Day (Theme of 2015: Seven Billion Dreams. One planet. Consume with care)
June 8	World Ocean Day (Theme of 2015: Healthy Oceans, Healthy Planet)
June 12	World Day against Child Labour
June 20	World Refugee Day (Theme of 2015: With courage let us all combine)
June 21	International Yoga Day
June 26	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
July 11	World Population Day
July 15	International Youth Skill Day
September 8	World Literacy Day
September 16	World Ozone Day
September 27	World Tourism Day
October 1	International Day for Older Persons
October 3	World Habitat Day
October 5	World Teachers Day
October 9	World Post Day
October 11	International Day of the Girl Child
October 14	World Standards Day
October 16	World Food Day
October 17	International Day for Eradication of Poverty
October 24	United Nations Day
December 1	World AIDS Day
December 3	International Day for Disabled Persons
December 7	International Civil Aviation Day
December 10	World Human Rights Day

## **(ii) National Days**

Date	Name of the Day
January 12	National Youth Day (birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda)
January 15	Army Day
January 23	Netaji S.C. Bose's Birth Anniversary
January 24	National Day for Girl Child
January 25	National Voters Day
January 26	Republic Day

Date	Name of the Day
January 30	Martyr's Day (Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary)
February 24	Central Excise Day
February 28	National Science Day
May 21	Anti-terrorism Day (Rajiv Gandhi's death anniversary)
June 29	National Statistics Day
August 7	National Handloom Day
August 15	Independence Day
August 29	National Sports Day
September 5	Teachers' Day
October 2	Gandhi Jayanti/International Day for Non-Violence
October 8	Indian Air Force Day
November 14	Children's Day
November 26	National Legal Day
December 4	Navy Day
December 23	Kisan Divas (Farmers' Day-Chowdhary Charan Singh's Birthday)

## 14. Sports Data

In this section generally questions are asked from cups and trophies and terms associated with various sports disciplines. Here is the compilation of important sports and related facts.

### (i) International Cups, trophies and associated sports disciplines

Name of the cup/trophy	Associated sport
Davis Cup (Men)	Lawn tennis
Federation Cup (Women)	Lawn tennis
Weightman Cup	Lawn tennis
ATP Tournament	Lawn tennis
Wimbledon Trophy	Lawn tennis
Australian Open,	Lawn tennis
US Open	Lawn tennis
French Open	Lawn tennis
Merdeka cup	Football
FIFA cup	Football
Copa America Cup	Football
Euro Cup	Football
Champions League	Football
Thomas Cup (Men)	Badminton
Uber Cup (Women)	Badminton
All England Badminton Championship	Badminton
Yonex Cup	Badminton

Name of the cup/trophy	Associated sport
Walker Cup	Golf
PGA Tournament	Golf
Ryder Cup	Golf
Canada Cup	Golf
Champions Trophy	Hockey
Bighton Cup	Hockey
Sultan Azlan Shah Cup	Hockey
William Jones Cup	Basketball

## **(ii) National cups/trophies and associated sports disciplines**

Name of the cup/trophy	Associated sports
ICC Cricket World Cup	Cricket
Asia Cup	Cricket
Sharjah Cup	Cricket
Duleep Trophy	Cricket
Sheesh Mahal Trophy	Cricket
Ranji Trophy (National Title)	Cricket
Vijay Hazarey Trophy	Cricket
Irani Trophy	Cricket
Deodhar Trophy	Cricket
Vizzy Trophy	Cricket
Durand Cup	Football
Santosh Memorial Trophy	Football (School Championship)
Subroto Cup	Football
Rovers Cup	Football
Sanjay Gold Cup	Football
Durand Cup	Football
Lal Bahadur Shastri Trophy	Football
Nizam Gold Cup	Football
Dr. B.C. Roy Trophy (National Junior Championship)	Football
Rangaswami Cup (National Title)	Hockey
Lady Ratan Tata Trophy (Women's)	Hockey
Nehru Trophy	Hockey
Aga Khan Gold Cup	Hockey
Guru Nanak Championship (All - India Women)	Hockey
Dhyan Chand Trophy	Hockey
Murugappa Gold Cup	Hockey
Ezar Cup	Polo

## **(iii) Terms associated with various sports disciplines**



<b>Sports</b>	<b>Terms associated with sports disciplines</b>
Badminton	Luv, deuce, drop, smash, double touch, let, double fault
Basketball	Pivot, dribble, basket, block, held ball, free throw, holding, jump ball
Billiards	Spider, baulk, cue, scratch, cannon
Boxing	Hook, rounds, punch, jab, countdown, knock-outs, all the weights, (flyweight, middleweight, heavyweight, etc.)
Bridge	Tricks, trump, suite, little slam, rubber
Chess	Knight, king, Sicilian defence, move, gambit, checkmate, rook, stalemate, queen, bishop, pawn, castle
Cricket	Gully, hat-trick, pull, beamer, hook, googly, flick, follow-on, maiden, declare, Silly point, Leg Before Wicket (LBW), Ashes, Duck, Popping crease, Maiden over, Square leg, Amour chinaman
Golf	Tee, birdie, club, course, Iron, eagle, links, caddie, putt, hole, bogey, fore, niblic
Hockey	Centre, penalty-stroke, free-hit, foul, carry, stick, corner, dribble, trapping, short corner, tie-braker, scoop, penalty corner
Table tennis	Deuce, drop, spin, smash, let, serve
Lawn-Tennis	Grand slam, lob, ace, passing shot, top-spin, forehand, crosscourt, deuce, down the line, slice, half volley, smash
Volleyball	Heave, serve, blocking, point, doubling

Wish you all the very best!

**Team CL**